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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Kugluktuk)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 10, 2016

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasi, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. 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, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

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

(interpretation ends) Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a point of privilege. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Please proceed, Mr. Premier.

Point of Privilege

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

Mr. Speaker, under our rules, section 20, I would like to make a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker, in a published online CBC News story this morning, Member Mr. Okalik was quoted as saying, and I quote, "It's unfortunate that a backroom deal that we don't know anything about took place to just open up caribou calving grounds for development."

As well, in an online news story by *Nunatsiaq News* today, Mr. Okalik is quoted as saying that he was not part of that, and I quote, "...backroom deal that we don't know anything about."

Mr. Speaker, let me make this perfectly clear: there was no backroom deal. The cabinet, after discussions and usual processes, made a decision.

The member's accusations about the cabinet's decisions are uncalled for and false. I would respectfully ask the member to retract and correct his statement at the earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker's Ruling

Speaker: I wish to advise members that the Premier provided the required notice under Rule 20(2). The Premier's point of privilege was raised under Rule 20(1). No debate on the point of privilege shall be allowed.

We will now move to the orders of the day. Item 2. [Ministers'] Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 084 – 4(3):
Airlines Public Appearance in
Committee of the Whole**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had committed that after the presentation and questions of the airlines in the Committee of the Whole, I would issue a written response to the airlines and make that letter public.

Mr. Speaker, the session was well received across Nunavut. I believe that it did allow Nunavummiut to get a better understanding of the codeshare agreement and also many of the other issues in the airline industry in Nunavut and across the north.

The numerous concerns and complaints about the quality of service, the late delivery of cargo, and the move toward less competition in the marketplace were all raised and addressed in the Committee of the Whole discussions.

Mr. Speaker, as I said in my opening comments during the Committee of the Whole presentation, airline travel in Nunavut is not a luxury; it is a necessity.

The codeshare arrangement that has been put in place by the three major airlines was the catalyst that initiated the Committee of the Whole appearance of the airlines.

Mr. Speaker, I would expect that Members of this House will also be following up with the airlines on specific areas of concern that they may have with the airlines.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be tabling my letter of response to

the airlines, as I had committed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of the Status of Women, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

**Minister's Statement 085 – 4(3):
International Women's Day**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tuesday, March 8, marked International Women's Day. This annual event is an opportunity to honour the achievements of women not only in Nunavut but around the world.

As a proud mother and Member of the Legislative Assembly, I know we must collectively strive to support gender equality in our families, our communities, and our workplaces.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in observance of that day, the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council has organized a photo exhibit celebrating Nunavut's Women in Community Action. This diverse exhibit recognizes women and girls who are involved in local initiatives with lasting social, cultural, and political impact. The photos are now on display at the Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum in Iqaluit and introduce strong role models to our current and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, every day, women and girls come together and lead the growth and development of our communities. I invite my colleagues and fellow Nunavummiut to visit the exhibit this

month and experience the inspiring images firsthand.

This month, Qullit will also announce the recipients of the Wise Women and Outstanding Young Woman Awards. These awards capture the advocacy work, support, and education given to improve the status of women in Nunavut. The long and compelling list of nominees proves the deep talent and compassion within our territory.

As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I would like to thank Qullit for championing this important work and providing a platform to empower women and girls. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 086 – 4(3):
Enforcement Officer Conference**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pangnirtung and Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Enforcement Officer Conference.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to offer my congratulations to the 30 Department of Environment enforcement officers who recently completed an intensive two-week training conference here in Iqaluit from February 1 to February 12.

This annual conference is an opportunity for our officers to re their training and learn some new skills. The conference

also provides a forum in which to discuss issues, trends, and most importantly, successes.

The training courses that were delivered this year included:

- Environmental Outreach
- Introduction to Law
- Inspections and Investigations; and
- Defensive Tactics

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight another success of this conference: for the second year running, all of the training was developed and delivered by our own officers. Five officers received training in the south during 2015, which provided them with the necessary skills to act as trainers for their fellow officers in Nunavut.

(interpretation) I am very proud of the department's officers for their hard work during the conference and over the past year, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to share their achievements with the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 087 – 4(3): Team
Nunavut participating in the 2016
Arctic Winter Games**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have recently returned from the opening ceremonies in Nuuk,

Greenland, where Team Nunavut is competing in the 2016 Arctic Winter Games (AWGs). It was quite the opening show. I don't know if it was shown on TV here, but it was good.

The opening ceremonies were very exciting and it is clear to me that the Team Nunavut participants are proud to represent us in Greenland. I would like to acknowledge flag bearer, Shelby Angalik, from Arviat. She led our participants during the opening ceremonies. Shelby will compete in wrestling in the 52 kg and under category. She one two silver ulus in Fairbanks, Alaska and she is already accomplished in wrestling at the Arctic Winter Games level. We hope she will bring home a gold ulu this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reflect on the partnership between Greenland and Nunavut in sharing the hosting duties for Arctic Winter Games 2016 events. We are proud to host the hockey tournaments in our territory and we are thankful for the opportunity to assist Greenland in the spirit of cooperation and community development.

I am looking forward to attending the hockey tournament in Iqaluit today where I will join the volunteers, parents, and mission staff in cheering on the Team Nunavut bantam male and junior female athletes and coaches. After the Games, I will take part in presenting the ulus to the winning teams after the gold medal [games]. Go, Nunavut, go! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 088 – 4(3):
Vandalism and Theft in Nunavut
Schools**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues, people from my community, and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to my fellow members about a disturbing issue that negatively affects us all: vandalism and theft in our schools.

Since the school year began, 16 school break-ins in schools have been reported to regional school operations. Mr. Speaker, the break-ins resulted in vandalism and theft of school property. The cost to repair the damage to the schools was over \$160,000.

Security camera footage shows that in some break-ins, elementary school-aged children were involved.

Mr. Speaker, in some break-ins, food was taken, which may mean that there are children in the community facing food insecurity.

Schools belong to everyone. Nunavummiut deserve to have schools that have all the equipment and supplies needed to serve the community.

Mr. Speaker, district education authorities and community groups work hard to raise funds and provide the support needed to make sure schools are

safe and welcoming environments for everyone.

When school property is damaged, it may mean that money has to be taken away from other programs or services to repair the damage.

Mr. Speaker, school principals are working with district education authorities, community leaders, and the RCMP to involve the whole community in protecting our schools through awareness messages on the radio and neighbourhood watch programs.

My department is working with Community and Government Services to make sure that the monitoring devices in all our schools are operational.

Mr. Speaker, I do not like to be the bearer of bad news, but this is an important issue which affects all our schools and our students. These kinds of incidents also suggest deeper issues which we all have to work together to address. With the support of engaged and motivated communities, we can work together to protect a valuable resource, which is our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member for Qamani'tuaq, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 190 – 4(3):
Baker Lake Participants at Arctic
Winter Games**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When the minister made his announcement about the athletes attending the Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk, Greenland, it reminded me I was lax in not mentioning that Baker Lake's young people are also representing us in the Arctic Winter Games.

They will be playing their first game today. To their parents and to them, it behooves us to send our support. These athletes are: Grace Tookoome, who will participate in the Inuit games, and others include Jarrett Seeteenak, Dawn Himga, and Megan Hachey for basketball.

One of the individuals selected to take part in the Arctic Winter Games, unfortunately due to illness, was unable to participate. Nonetheless, I was led to understand that she wishes the best to her teammates and is supporting them, so I would like to recognize Taylor Sweetland.

In light of the Games today, "Go, Nunavut, go!" Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Moving on. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 216 – 4(3):
New Hunter Education Program**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was asked by Member Tom Sammurtok, MLA for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, on March 3, 2016 concerning the new Hunter Education Program.

The question was:

“In his Budget Address last week, the Minister of Finance announced that the Government of Nunavut is, and I quote, (interpretation ends) ‘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? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.”

My response is:

The Harvester Education Program is going to be delivered in phases as course materials are developed and instructors are trained in their use. Course materials are currently in development in collaboration with other Government of Nunavut departments and Nunavut stakeholders. My department will begin to release some of these educational materials this year as they are finalized.

(interpretation ends) The full Harvester Education Program is proposed to be delivered by conservation officers in communities across Nunavut by 2018. (interpretation) Courses will take place over a weekend or during evenings so that they are easily available to the public.

The Department of Environment is also working with the Department of Education to develop an optional Careers and Technology Studies course which will be offered in high schools across Nunavut. At this time, there is no proposed date for delivery of this phase of the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier.

**Return to Oral Question 247 – 4(3):
Caribou Habitat and Restricted Development**

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question addressed to me was asked by Mr. Paul Okalik, Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, No. 247 – 4(3), yesterday on March 9, 2016 and I would like make a correction to my prior response.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify; yesterday, I stated that we have 67 percent of our residents in Nunavut who are on income support. The correction I want to make is that the number is 43 percent and not 67 percent who are on income support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rarely get to exercise my privilege and I am very pleased for this opportunity to recognize an individual. Firstly, I say “good day” to the residents of Baker Lake and Nunavut.

I would like to welcome to the Assembly Basil Quinangnaaq, who is a member of the HTO in Baker Lake and the Baker Lake District Education Authority’s vice-chairperson. Welcome to the House. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 252 – 4(3): Housing Issues in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Uqhuqtuurmiut. (interpretation) To the people of Taloyoak, I’m thinking of you today.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the MLA for Gjoa Haven, I was very pleased to have voted last fall for new funding to support the

construction of five new public housing units and five new staff housing units in the community of Gjoa Haven during the upcoming 2016-17 fiscal year.

For the benefit of my constituents who are watching today’s proceedings, can the minister explain how the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s current allocation system determined that Gjoa Haven is to receive five new public housing units and five new staff housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this question because it’s a very important one across the whole territory.

When the housing corporation takes a look at the current needs in a community in which to base its allocation on, the first thing we look at is waiting lists. One of the things that I have been trying to get the message out across the territory is how important it is for people to put their name on the waiting list.

With the severe shortage of housing that we have across the territory, it can be kind of disheartening. Sometimes people spend years on the waiting list, but I can’t stress the importance enough to have everyone’s name on the waiting list so that we can get a true valuation of the amount of people who are currently in need of housing. This is for a couple of different reasons; for us to assist with our allocations to make sure that we’re dealing with it with up-to-date information. In addition to that, it actually gives us, as a territory, a full

picture of how dire our housing need really is so that we can continue to lobby for continued support.

With the allocation in Gjoa Haven, those factors were taken into consideration. Another factor, if I may add, Mr. Speaker, is when we do construction projects in a community, we do try to piggyback staff housing and public housing opportunities to get maximum economic benefit and to put as many units in our communities as we can on a yearly basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for the brief explanation. As the MLA for Gjoa Haven, I recognize the importance of ensuring that the government has accurate and up-to-date numbers concerning housing needs in all of our communities. Mr. Speaker, this information is necessary to ensuring that the Nunavut Housing Corporation can determine how many new units are required in each community.

Mr. Speaker, I have been working with my community's LHO to encourage residents to make their housing needs known to the local housing organization. Can the minister confirm when the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to conduct its next Nunavut-wide housing needs survey? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for one, encouraging members of his community to make sure that those who are deserving to be on the waiting list and the needs list in the community put their names on it. I encourage all Members in this House to speak to their constituents to make sure that their constituents have their name on the waiting list.

With regard to the needs survey, that survey was done in the past and we currently keep on top of data that we collect from the LHOs, this being one of them, the amount of people who are on the waiting list. I would encourage members to continue with that practice. We do follow with the reporting structure and the information that is provided from each LHO so that we keep up-to-date data.

In addition to that, we're currently working on the blueprint for action to assist us in implementing the housing strategy for Nunavut. At this time, we're not anticipating putting out another needs survey until that report is completed, and then we will re-evaluate the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is well aware, I have spoken about the issues of overcrowding and homelessness on many occasions in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware of many situations in Gjoa Haven where residents do not have a home of their home and have to couch surf or find other places to sleep on a night-to-night basis. There are

a lot of examples, even in the summertime. I have heard of a resident having to sleep in a truck. That's one example.

From the perspective of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, can the minister clearly explain whether or not people in these circumstances are considered homeless? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for keeping bringing this issue forward. There are different definitions. There is no one sheer definition of homelessness in Nunavut. Defining homelessness will require a lot more research than we have done to date and to identify the various causes and situations that lead to homelessness.

With the *Nunavut Housing Needs Survey* that the brought up in his first supplementary, which was brought out in 2010, the definition that we used at that time in each community was identifying the number of people who did not have a usual home and were temporarily living in another person's dwelling. With that description, those people that the member mentioned would fall into our category of homeless. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Question 253 – 4(3): Protection Measures for Caribou in Nunavut

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to asking my questions, I wish to provide a brief preamble.

From the time I first recalled events as I was growing up, our diet mainly consisted of caribou meat and that was what I grew up largely eating. Freshly caught caribou meat eaten raw or summer cached meat, cooked meat, and frozen meat, we ate caribou in all these forms as I was growing up. Caribou is of prime importance to me, especially when discussing caribou.

My question today is for the Minister of Environment.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I asked the minister what the government's position is concerning the issue of identifying caribou post-calving grounds as protected areas under the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

In response, the minister stated that "the Government of Nunavut supports responsible development within calving grounds and key access corridors, and these will be on a case-by-case basis."

Can the minister define the government's interpretation of responsible development and explain what specific research is involved in responsible development?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for providing that background. As he was listing the various forms of caribou meat he consumed, my mouth was starting to water in desire.

>>*Laughter*

He pretty much listed the main ways that caribou is consumed by Inuit, which I have experienced myself growing up.

Caribou is definitely of huge importance to the people of Nunavut. We know that with caribou, when tracks can be seen on the land, it is a pleasant experience to spot tracks, even when one isn't really looking for caribou. It's actually a bonus to find the caribou.

With respect to the question the member asked, there will be developers interested in Nunavut. We already have quite a number working on a number of developments in Nunavut. To practise responsible development, one has to take into consideration the entire ecosystem in the vicinity of your project, including the animals and the land. That is the meaning behind the phrase "responsible development."

Careful stewardship and protection of the environment inhabited by caribou and plants are the basis for ensuring that we keep responsible development at the forefront. Also, we want to ensure that the environment isn't unduly damaged by development. Thank you and I hope my response is sufficiently clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On Monday, March 7, 2016, the minister also stated that "migration routes would be carefully reviewed by the government" and that "as the lands in Nunavut are being planned out for the access corridors, this is another avenue for the Nunavut government to enact further protection measures."

Can the minister describe in detail the specific protection measures that will be put into place to protect caribou calving and post-calving grounds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will just kind of briefly put the meaning in what protection means. It means protection measures designated in calving grounds and corridors to assure that industry does not interfere with high concentrations of caribou. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yesterday, I tabled a letter from the Kivalliq Wildlife Management Board, which had been addressed on March 7, 2016 to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. In this letter, the president of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board indicates that, and I quote, "I previously wrote to the Premiere and Minister of Environment, requesting that they work with Kivalliq HTOs and the KWB on the issue of caribou habitat protection. I had

hoped that the Government of Nunavut would consider Kivalliq HTO perspectives on land use planning, and consult with us on any policy changes and decisions.”

Can the minister describe the steps that he takes to consult with local HTOs and regional wildlife boards prior to making any decisions concerning wildlife protection measures and land use planning in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have a copy of this letter and we are developing a response to the contents.

Now, with respect to the land use planning process in Nunavut, the process is ongoing at this time. It is coordinated by the Nunavut Planning Commission to develop land use plans throughout Nunavut. This process is mandated as the responsibility of NPC.

I want it understood that all the organizations throughout our territory that have an interest in the uses of the land have the capability to submit their concerns personally to the Nunavut Planning Commission. This applies to any individual or organization or any other group that may have concerns about the land. In that manner as well, just like the government submits their concerns, every other person can do the same in this process.

With the process laid out for land use planning and NPC’s roles and responsibilities, all of these are outlined

in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and they are the Institution of Public Government (IPG) that is named. We are just another party in front of NPC as the Nunavut government

Perhaps to illustrate the point, the Kivalliq region has one of the most active mining sectors currently, with gold now the focus, but other minerals are being explored. Some of the initial projects are now up and running with a mine also operating.

There have been several wildlife-related issues that our government has identified as wanting to proceed with, which is in line with the land use plan and current practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 254 – 4(3): Housing Construction

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s most recent annual report indicates that the corporation is, and I quote, “continuing to review other options for more energy efficient and economical solutions for the construction of housing.”

Can the minister indicate whether or not the Nunavut Housing Corporation has already used or is considering using modular homes as part of its public housing or staff housing construction

plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing that question up. The use of modular homes is something we have looked at in the past and we're still examining ways to see how it could benefit in reducing the costs and providing more homes across the territory at the community level.

There are a number of different factors that we have to consider. Shipping costs on those types of units are a lot more expensive than just simply materials. Our apprentices and contractors in our communities get less exposure to construction methods. There are many different factors that we take into consideration when we're looking at the use of conventional stick build versus modular style housing.

It is something that we are continuously looking at and I have had fairly recent meetings with my staff on discussing different options of using modular components. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is currently tendering a new staff housing duplex that will be constructed in Sanikiluaq during the 2016-17 fiscal year. I note that the minimum level of Inuit labour on this project is 45 percent. Mr. Speaker, this means jobs and

training opportunities for my constituents.

Can the minister describe how the Nunavut Housing Corporation enforces its minimum Inuit labour content requirements on staff housing and public housing construction projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for bringing attention to that issue. Any time we're doing construction in the community, we try to involve local labour and local contractors, whether it would be through subcontracting. Part of the tender process sets out expected Inuit employment percentages and levels within the contract itself. In addition to that, we have fairly severe penalties for contractors that don't need meet those thresholds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to housing design and construction, it is important to recognize that there are always trade-offs. I have heard concerns that while the use of modular housing units would be cheaper, thereby allowing more units to be constructed, they require less manpower, thereby decreasing local employment and training opportunities. In which direction is the minister leaning on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member nailed it right on the head. It's a balancing act between getting as many units on the ground as we can with the limited dollars we have, but we also have to take into consideration the skills needed for construction and the local labour and our apprentices getting the hours that they need to fulfill their apprenticeship obligations to become Red Seal carpenters, oil burner mechanics, the list goes on, plumbers, electricians, any number of trades that are involved with housing construction.

I wouldn't say I'm leaning any way at this moment, Mr. Speaker. It's something that I'm continuously analyzing with my staff. At the end of the day, along with my cabinet colleagues, we will be doing the best we can for Nunavummiut. I'm standing straight up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 255 – 4(3): Recording Traditional Law

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I say "good day" to my colleagues, ministers, and the residents of Kugaaruk. Residents of Taloyoak, I share in your sorrow today.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Acting Minister of Culture and Heritage.

I believe that we need to record and preserve the knowledge of the elders concerning traditional or customary Inuit law.

Mr. Speaker, the current business plan for the Department of Culture and Heritage indicates that one of the department's future priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year is to, and I quote, "Create a book of Customary Laws collected by the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what resources will be provided to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit to accomplish this important project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Acting Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Indeed, the Inuktitut language and his comments in particular are protected through legislation via the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. To further explain, the official languages used in Nunavut are also protected. We have continued to make progress up to today.

With regard to our Inuit language protection measures, we have started to define these parameters. This government is managing this requirement, particularly the Department of Culture and Heritage, in collaboration with organizations established for this field. We have made progress. Within our business plan for 2016-19, which is set for a four-year period, it will result in expenditures of funds, obviously. For

this reason, the government has identified an annual budget of approximately \$5 million.

Additionally, our federal Government of Canada also has jurisdiction over official languages. That is how we have managed this file to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify whether or not the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit has already started collecting the information that will be published by the department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Acting Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to look into how much work has been done to date by the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. I will have to look into his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are 10 members of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit and there are 25 communities in Nunavut. Will members of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit be travelling to other communities as part of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Acting Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I will have to look into that as well to get an update. I want an update myself as to what has been happening in order to answer his question. He mentioned the fact that there are ten board members. I would like to know if he is asking how many members there are supposed to be on the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Qirngnuq, please clarify your question.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are 10 members of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit and there are 25 communities in Nunavut. That's what I'm referring to. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The Acting Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to check into the Inuit language and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I will have to look into this, as I said, to see how the board was put together and ask to see if the number of board members can be changed or increased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 256 – 4(3): Repatriating Nunavut Elders

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Family Services also.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are all aware, I feel very strongly that Nunavummiut who require continuing care should be kept at home in Nunavut where they can be looked after in the best possible environment.

Can the minister provide an update on how often his department re-evaluates the status of clients who are receiving continuing care services in the south with a view to repatriating them back home to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As acting minister, I will really have to get back to the MLA about this question in order to be able to answer the question properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken this as notice. I shall move to the next member. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

Question 257 – 4(3): RFP for Banking Services

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

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Finance.

Yesterday, I spoke about the needs of our smaller communities in such areas as airport infrastructure. My questions today will focus on the need to encourage the expansion of other types of services that will help support a sustainable future for all of our communities, large and small, to make sure they are sustainable.

As the minister will be aware, his department recently issued a request for proposals for banking services. I was pleased to note that the RFP states that, and I quote, “the GN would like to expand and maximize the level of banking services available to residents of Nunavut, especially in the communities [and] hamlets where physical banking operations do not exist.”

Can the minister describe what types of proposals his department is hoping to receive in this area from banks and other institutions that are bidding for the government’s business? 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. Joanasié for speaking up for small communities. Listening to his question had started me

thinking and I hope I don't date myself, but I remember back in the mid-70s in Cambridge Bay, we lobbied then for a bank and we got CIBC fly-in/fly-out banking service, which eventually went out of business, but I still have the sign. For the archives, I found the sign at the garbage dump.

>> *Laughter*

Years later, our community lobbied for several banks and we eventually got the Royal Bank of Canada opened in Cambridge Bay in 1996. It's good to lobby for banking services in your communities.

In this particular case, this RFP that we put out in February, we hope to make a decision by some time later this year. It's for major banking services for the Government of Nunavut and it's required. In that RFP, we asked the banks to outline how they could expand and provide services in the smaller communities where people live and work. We're hoping to hear back from them, perhaps, on how they can. I don't want to tell them what to put in their proposals, but more visits to the communities, perhaps online banking, direct deposits, and whatever they think fits in their business model that can improve banking for our smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for that response. We have recently learned that the government is leaning towards restructuring its Fuel Tax Rebate

Program to focus on supporting companies during the initial phases of mineral exploration and development.

Can the minister indicate what types of tax incentives or other mechanisms he is considering to encourage the expansion of banking and financial services to our smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Joanasié for the question. The Government of Nunavut does an awful lot of business on daily, monthly, and annual bases. We have a tremendous amount of money that flows through bank accounts and trust accounts. Of course, banks make money off all that, so I'm not offering tax breaks.

I would certainly hope that any proponent that chooses to bid on the proposal would consider that there's competition out there. There is more than one bank in Canada. If they're competitive, they will look at what kind of deposits that the Government of Nunavut has. All that information is in the RFP and they have some very smart people working at banks, so you would think they would possibly sharpen their pencils, get out their calculators, and figure out how they can offer the best proposal that would increase their level of banking services in our smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's RFP for banking services closes on April 15. Will the minister commit to reporting back to the House during the spring sitting on the results of this process, including the commitments the successful proponent has made regarding the provision of community banking and financial services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I don't like to make commitments. There is a contracting procurement process, there's an evaluation process, and I have to let our people do that. I have full confidence in their ability to evaluate proposals and recommend or award to the successful proponent. In due time, the information will be available when the contract is awarded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 258 – 4(3): Country Food Distribution Program

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

There was an announcement by her department about the need to support harvesters and how current assistance funding is used. From what I know, the funding that communities can get is limited to \$20,000 per annum. The only way for harvesters to benefit from that is

through community hunts to be shared with fellow residents.

I would like to ask the minister for an update on the status of the current support program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I think he's asking about the (interpretation ends) Country Food Distribution Program (interpretation) for the communities. This program is tailored to each community. Mr. Speaker, we allocated \$1,868,000 in our budget and we expect that to be mostly expended in the current 2015-16 fiscal year. Each community that wishes to apply to this fund is limited to \$30,000 per annum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is, indeed, one program that could provide more benefits and we rarely hear about it. In particular, smaller communities that have few employment opportunities could conceivably see more benefits out of that program. I wonder if the limit can be increased for smaller communities with few job prospects. This program could provide more benefits to unemployed people. I would like to ask the minister if she can look into this matter further. 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 my colleague for that question as there often is a demand for information on that program.

With respect to the expenditures, if we look back at 2014-15 figures, the amount was substantially lower, totalling \$254,000. In this current and ending fiscal year 2015-16, these amounts were increased. In the past, it was spent mostly on community freezers in the communities. We made some changes to allow it to be spent on other things besides community freezers.

We recently added maintenance expenses to the community freezers. To ensure the fund is spent completely, some of the funds have been earmarked for jobs that can provide benefits for the communities. If communities wish to apply for these workers, they can submit an application for this kind of assistance.

To cite some examples, the communities that have really taken advantage of this fund are Sanikiluaq, Arviat, Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, and Resolute Bay. They have also applied for funding to maintain their facilities.

With the changes to the criteria, more communities have started to apply for this funding. However, even with that, the funds still end up with a surplus as communities are just starting to learn about the purpose of this fund. We totally expect future increases in the numbers of communities taking

advantage of this fund and that we may need to review the amount down the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is quite clear that our country food is the most nutritious and beneficial to our bodies. Further, all the imported foodstuffs from the south is increasingly more expensive.

I would like to know if a study can be undertaken to provide more assistance to our harvesters in the communities to lower the numbers of people on income support. It seems obvious that if country food was more available, then it would benefit both this government and our residents. I wish to know: can this be a focus of a study in the future? 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. We work in conjunction with this group called the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Harvester Support Working Group (interpretation) on a five-year plan for Nunavut. This group is always searching for providing assistance to our harvesters and of the need to have nutritious and healthy country foods. They work on these issues. We are a part of this group.

With respect to the question the member raised, we will review that and how it is used. We are just starting to understand the purposes and the funds that we have

earmarked in this program are underutilized. In the new fiscal year, when the fund is restocked and with communities more aware of this initiative, we expect more applications from the communities.

One requirement is that the communities have to identify their future plans and purpose for the funds. We will conduct a review after we understand the breadth of the use of these funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 259 – 4(3): Departmental Vacancies

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

The minister is well aware of this issue and I have raised it many times about vacant positions in Pond Inlet, particularly regarding the assistant fire marshal position based in Pond Inlet. Today, in researching the vacant positions, I noted that this position is still vacant.

Mr. Speaker, let me ask first of all: why can't the department fill this position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That assistant fire marshal position in Pond Inlet was advertised and

we are in the interview process. HR would have a better understanding since HR is in charge of hiring workers, but we are doing our best to fill that position as quickly as possible. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that a total of ten positions in the department's Pond Inlet office are vacant. However, as of today, the only departmental position in Pond Inlet that is being advertised on the government's website is for a regional project manager.

Can the minister assure me that his department will start advertising for and filling its vacant positions in Pond Inlet? 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. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I can't give him a confirmed date. As I informed the member, the hiring process is done with HR. It's not only HR; all departments work with HR for hiring and advertising. I can't give specific reasons on why the jobs are not advertised yet, but our goal is to advertise them as soon as possible. We will work with HR to make sure that the jobs not only in Pond Inlet but anywhere are advertised and filled as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my last question. I know that there are empty staff housing units in Pond Inlet and I keep saying that in the House. However, the job advertisement for the position of regional project manager indicates that no staff housing is available. Let me ask the minister: can he clarify whether this is because there are no units available in Pond Inlet or is it because his department did not request a unit to be allocated to this position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for calling you the Chair. You are Mr. Speaker.

I thank the member for the question. I can't answer the specifics on that job there, but at times, a job could be or will be advertised without housing if we are hopeful to get a local resident to get the job. As for specifically for why the job is advertised without housing, I can't give the member a reason right now.

For the vacant staff houses, that will have to be an issue that he brings up with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and I know he has on many occasions. I can't speak about all the vacant staff housing units in Pond Inlet, but even if they are vacant, I know that if they are assigned to a specific job, then we don't have access to them and that's just the way it is.

We first try to fill jobs without staff housing, if need be, if there's no staff housing and if the job can't be filled, then if the reason is because there's no staff housing, then we can request for staff housing. I can't talk to the specific job that the member is talking about, but I will certainly get back to him as to why it's advertised without housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): I would like to ask if we can return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Pangnirtung would like to go back Item 5. Are there any nays? I don't hear any nays. Mr. Mike, proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. There is a visitor here in the gallery I would like to recognize and that is Daniel Shewchuk, Interim Chair of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and

Other Matters. Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 092 – 4(3): Nunavut Food Security Coalition Annual Report 2014-2015

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as Minister of Family Services. Do I understand correctly that we are on (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want it known that I'm not rising as Minister of Environment but as Acting Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to table the *Nunavut Food Security Coalition Annual Report 2014-15* in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize for not addressing your portfolio properly.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna. No? Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Tabled Document 093 – 4(3): Department of Education Annual Report 2012-2013

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Department of Education Annual Report 2012-13*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon. Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Tabled Document 094 – 4(3): Department of Family Services' Update to the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) 2014 Follow-up Review on Child and Family Services

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Department of Family Services' Update to the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) 2014 Follow-up Review on Child and Family Services*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First of Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 14 – Public Health Act – Notice

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, March 11, 2016, that Bill 14, *Public Health Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18.

Second Reading of Bills. Item 19.
[Consideration in] Committee of the Whole on 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. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:51 and Committee resumed at 15:13*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, Nunavummiut watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. Welcome to your committee.

I would now 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 Finance, then Economic Development and Transportation. If time permits, we will proceed to Nunavut Arctic College, followed by the Department of

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we will deal with those items?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman (interpretation): As we will be dealing with the Department of Finance, do you agree to bring in the Minister of Finance's witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Peterson, please introduce the officials that are with you at the witness table. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Chris D'Arcy, the Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Christine Bens, Director of Corporate Services. In the gallery, I have Peter Tumilty, Assistant Deputy Minister, and Alma Power, another Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the House, Mr. D'Arcy and Ms. Bens. I will also welcome the other officials if they are required at the witness table.

We can now proceed. During our meeting yesterday, we stopped on page C-4. We completed the standing committee's opening comments. I have also stated that if you have any questions to the opening comments, I remind you that everything that is included in the minister's opening comments is covered under different pages. If you have detailed questions, you can ask them under the appropriate pages.

At this time, I would like to ask if there are any general comments. I don't see any show of hands. Let's move on to review the pages. We will start with page C-4. I will be reading the Inuktitut version. Finance. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Akoak.

Before you start, Mr. Akoak, if you have any questions or comments, please raise your hand ahead of time so that I can list your names. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ministers and staff, good afternoon.

On page 22 of your business plan, Priorities (2015-16), your department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that it is working with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs on the government's operational audit. "Phase 1 of the audit was completed in November 2015, and Phase 2 will begin once Phase 1 results have been analysed."

How does your department's work differ from that of the Department of EIA? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. The Department of Finance and the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs are actually working on the operational audit together, so it's a team effort. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that the second phase of the external review will take place between January of 2016 and October of 2016. The government's 2017-18 main estimates and business plan will be introduced in February or March of 2017, and the next general election will take place in October of 2017. How does the government plan to incorporate the results of the operational audit into its 2017-18 budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. Mr. Chairman, the departments are currently analyzing phase 1 of the operational audit and we will be commencing phase 2 fairly shortly, but we're analyzing the recommendations in phase 1 to see what will be incorporated into the development of our main estimates next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your 2014 Budget Address announced that the government would “review processes this year for monitoring grants and contributions to ensure that we receive good value from these agreements.” Your department’s draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to “Complete Phase 2 of the audit of departmental grants and contributions.” It also indicates that phase 1 of the audit will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2015-16.

To what extent is this audit addressing the issue of value for money from the government’s grants and contributions spending? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for his question. Mr. Chairman, the debt component has been completed. Internal Audit Services has contacted departments and we will be looking at some other grants and contributions programs for further audit to see how we can make some improvements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does the government currently measure and evaluate the effectiveness of its grants and contributions expenditures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. Mr. Chairman, the government sets the objectives of the different grants and contributions programs.

If individual departments are responsible for receiving business proposals or business cases from applicants, then they must be considered against the criteria and objectives set out in the grants and contributions programs, and then they would, of course, make the decision. There would be a grants and contributions agreement with a number of conditions in the agreement. Of course, the recipient will either agree or not agree, but if they agree, then they must comply with the terms and conditions.

It would be the responsibility of the departments and department heads to ensure that the recipients comply with those terms, conditions, and objectives set out in their business case to ensure that we got, as we say, “value for money.” Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On average, how many audits does the government perform each year on grants and contributions recipients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the

question. The Department of Finance itself normally would not conduct audits on individual grants and contributions applications.

This particular project is a special project of the two departments. It would be the responsibility of the department responsible for that particular grant and contribution program to ensure that the recipients are complying. For example, if they asked us to come in and do a compliance audit or a performance audit, we could do that on the program. If there are issues with the client themselves, the department could request us to engage in other types of audits.

There are so many grants and contributions programs out there that we just don't have enough people to go out and audit grants and contributions. We have many other areas of the government we also are responsible for auditing. I think we only have 10 auditors in Internal Audit Services, so you can imagine the volume of work they would have if they had to audit everything. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Before I go to the next member, if you brought your mobile phones or other electrical devices, please put them on silent mode or turn them off completely.

We are on page C-4. Following my list of names, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and officials.

My first question here would be, you tabled the government's new *Human*

Resource Strategy in the Legislative Assembly on November 4, 2014. How is your department monitoring the implementation of the strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for his question. The GN's human resource development strategy is government-wide strategy, but there are two departments responsible for ensuring oversight and that would be our department and also EIA.

We were developing the programs and criteria the first couple of years. Now we're into the third year and the departments are responsible for implementing those recommendations. Of course, as we continue on, EIA and Finance will monitor oversight. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What does the government consider to be a realistic timeline for achieving 85 percent Inuit employment in the Government of Nunavut across all occupational categories? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. I don't know if I have an answer for that.

I was reading through the Auditor General of Canada's report the other day on human resource capacity of the Government of Nunavut from 2010. The Auditor General at the time... Madam Sheila Fraser is a very nice lady; I hope she's enjoying retirement. She wrote in her report, "Employable population. Presently, Nunavut has a population of about 32,000 people. However, about 42 percent of the population is either under 18 years of age or over 65 years of age and therefore most are not available for Government employment. Of the remaining population, some are students in post-secondary schools and others are employed elsewhere in the territory or are already working for the Government. In addition, throughout the territory there is a lot of competition for skilled beneficiaries to work in the private sector, at other levels of government, and in Inuit organizations. As a result, the Government of Nunavut needs to compete for skilled beneficiaries." Then she goes on to talk about low graduation rates.

The Government of Nunavut, in our mandate, *Sivumut Abluqta*, has made education a top priority. The Minister of Education is working very hard in that area. What has to happen, I believe and I'm sure all of us here agree, is we have to get our young people into school and keep them in school right through to grade 12, graduation, and then into colleges, universities, or trade schools. Hopefully they will graduate and then they have the skill sets and education that could make them move into these jobs that are available in the Government of Nunavut.

For me to sit here and tell you a reasonable time or 85 percent, I can't put

a figure on it. It's going to take time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would your department have the information when I ask about the 85 percent Inuit employment in the levels of government, whether it be intermediate, senior management, or middle management? Would your department be able to obtain that information and provide it to the members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Mr. Chairman, that information is posted every quarter in what we call the "TRPS report" on the Government of Nunavut website. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my follow-up to that would be: seeing that your department oversees employment and hiring practices, do you feel there is one department leading in the Inuit employment hiring within the Government of Nunavut? Do you feel that one department may be leading or going over that 85 percent mark? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Mr. Chairman, I don't like to shirk my responsibilities here, but it would be the executive and intergovernmental affairs department that would have that kind of information. I don't know if we have that information available here at our table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Again, I would like to remind the members that Tabled Documents 73 – 4 (2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) are all those regarding human resources and have been tabled because we're going to be dealing with them next week. The human resources minister will be making an appearance at that time. If you would save your questions for that time, I would appreciate it. At that time, they will have all the relevant documentation in front of them, so I'm reminding the members. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the reminder. I'll move on here. Your department's 2015-18 business plan indicates that human resource audits of the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Department of Health were scheduled for completion in the fall of 2015. What findings have these audits determined to date and when will the results of these audits be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for

his question. Mr. Chairman, we haven't been able to complete those audits yet. As you're probably aware, we had some disruptions that interfered in at least one of them. We're hopeful to get those completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak, any further questions?

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess this would be my last question. Will any new human resource audits of the Government of Nunavut departments or Crown agencies be undertaken in the 2016-17 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, not at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We're on page C-4. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I am starting to confuse the issue, please stop me. I believe we are on page Ti-4 of the Inuktitut version.

I would like to ask this question to the minister, but first I want to welcome the minister and his officials to the Legislative Assembly.

In October 2015, your department issued an RFP for developing a Nunavut-wide strategy on the responsible use of alcohol. The purpose, as stated, was to develop a socially responsible strategy to

raise awareness and to educate Nunavummiut, which I believe is part of that mandate, and that is to be implemented once the beer and wine store is in place, that there will be a component dealing with social issues.

It states that a company will be contracted to provide this service to prepare the strategy once the store is opened. What is the actual purpose of this statement? Is it to provide assistance to residents? Can you explain the purpose of this statement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. Mr. Chairman, yes, that's correct. The company's name is Context, C-o-n-t-e-x-t. It's a two-year contract and they come with a lot of experience. They have begun the work, I believe, a couple of months ago. In fact, in Cambridge Bay, I believe they were there about a month ago consulting with people, so they have been going around.

Yes, the push in our department has been to use funds from the revolving fund of the Nunavut Liquor Commission to develop a social responsibility program to educate people about the responsible use of alcohol and alcohol being hard stuff, beer, or wine, and that will be ongoing. It's not a treatment program. It's just talking to people about the dangers of alcohol.

For example, if you're a pregnant mother, it's not recommended. Well, it's totally not recommended that you drink while you're pregnant because that could

lead to fetal alcohol spectrum disorder symptoms. If you drink too much, maybe you might get in trouble with the police and things like that. That's all about educating people about the dangers of alcohol. Don't binge drink. That causes problems as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for providing an answer I wanted to understand and for being prepared. Actually, with respect to the education aspect of this strategy, in my mind, it will be a useful tool to ensure socially responsible drinking is taught, so thank you for that.

What about this other matter I want to ask about, whether or not the local alcohol education committees would have a role in this strategy? In June of 2015, the government's new *Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store Regulations* were published in Part II of the *Nunavut Gazette*. What is the government's current timeline for opening this store? Is it already in progress or is it still in the planning stages? This is an area I wish to get a complete understanding of, so if you can accommodate me with a response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his question. Mr. Chairman, there are 14 alcohol education committees in different communities across Nunavut. They don't have a direct role in the

development or implementation of the social responsibility program, but we will be working with them. We will provide them with materials that they can use.

They do provide us with good feedback from their communities that the Nunavut Liquor Commission uses to assist the completion of orders in the communities. We had a meeting here in Iqaluit last October. The chairperson and mayors for 14 AECs were here in Iqaluit, so they provided us with a lot of good feedback.

With respect to the beer and wine store pilot project here in Iqaluit, as we have been continuously saying, it was a recommendation of the Nunavut Liquor Task Force that a pilot project be considered to disrupt the bootleggers and binge drinkers in Nunavut who are preying on people's desires to drink.

We have been working very diligently in public consultations last year with the community of Iqaluit. In online surveys, 97 percent of the 310 surveyed were in support. Of course, the plebiscite was last April 20, where there was, I think, 78 percent of the people that voted were in favour of the beer and wine store.

We did, of course, amend the *Liquor Act* and the *Liquor Regulations* to put steps in place to open up a beer and wine store. I must say that the beer and wine store would be offering low-alcohol, low-cost beer and wine to customers. We will be making an announcement in due course when we would open a beer and wine store. We haven't made an announcement yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also appreciate the minister's preparations by having this plan for this initiative. Thank you for that.

I have another question which is largely outside of these issues. During our sessions last year, when this was first being debated and planned, there was a component included, which, in my opinion, is part of this initiative. In the communities outside of Iqaluit, with respect to the sales of beer and wine, both the Northern and Co-op stores were mentioned as possible avenues, if the communities wanted the same type of venue. I seemed to understand at that point that the communities have the discretion of whether to allow or disallow the sales of beer and wine.

If they have the discretion, does this mean that local stores may start selling wine and beer? Will they open up drinking establishments throughout our communities? Is that the purpose of this strategy you have planned out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his question. Mr. Chairman, we have been very careful with this whole beer and wine store pilot project concept.

The liquor task force looked at Greenland and other jurisdictions. They saw that a beer and wine store in Greenland has had success. We have

heard reports from the media from Northern Quebec where beer and wine stores were opened and there was little or no impact on the local community. In fact, I believe there were reports where the crime decreased. That's right in the media and you know the media likes to sensationalize things sometimes, no offence to the media. I'm not trying to make you guys look bad, but I read stuff and that was very positive.

We're taking a very measured approach to this. It's a pilot project and we have consistently said that we will monitor this pilot project to see if there is any discernable or major impact or negative impacts. The cabinet can make a decision to shut the beer and wine store pilot project down if we see it's contributing negatively to the community. Our intent by the beer and wine pilot project is to disrupt the bootleggers and, hopefully, encourage people not to binge drink. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. You answered part of what I was going to ask. He seems to read my mind. I understood what he said, but I'll just go ahead anyway.

I understand that after the beer and wine store has been open for a certain period of time and it resulted in too many problems, it could be closed down. Is that what you plan to do? I know you mentioned negative impacts, but on the other hand, would you decide to keep it open? My final question is: what is the

objective? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his question. As I have continuously said, it's a pilot project and it will be a three-year pilot project. We would monitor the sales and the regulations. I don't have the details in the regulations, but there are limitations on how much beer and wine an individual can purchase per day. I believe it would be open, under regulations, six days a week. Of course, people will have to produce ID and perhaps other identification to purchase the beer and wine.

It will be a government-run beer and wine store. As a government-run beer and wine store, we monitor the results, how it's going, the impact on the local community here in Iqaluit. We could make that decision to close the beer and wine store. Right now, it's a pilot project to see how it will work. We are hopeful and positive that it will work well, but we always retain that authority to shut it down if necessary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Peterson as well as your officials.

Last week when CGS minister was in front of the committee, he talked about the program review that the GN had undertaken and CGS put forth in their budget for 21 new PYs in their IT. However, we have never seen any

results from that first phase of the operational review. When can we expect those results? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. The lead minister on that particular initiative would be the Minister for EIA. I believe it's his intention to table phase 1 as soon as possible. We still have to make a decision at the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the finance department helps each department with their needs in terms of prioritizing. With this program review, how much of a say does your department have in that program review? Let's say for example, the 21 PYs that were earmarked for CG&S, did you put that forward on their behalf and then it was submitted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the first question. The Department of Finance is full partners with EIA and the consulting group that are working on the operational audits, phase 1 and phase 2. Of course, we all contribute in our way. We have access to very detailed, comprehensive information that the consulting firm would require to do the review.

With respect to the main estimates, the finance department coordinates the development of the main estimates and that's an annual process. As the Minister of Finance, I bring a draft call letter to the Financial Management Board and they would approve that call letter. Basically, the call letter sets out the parameters for all departments to follow with respect to developing their main estimates.

It's a comprehensive, lengthy process. It began last June and we worked all the way up until December. This past Christmas, we began finalization of the main estimates so that we could give them to the Legislative Assembly to distribute to the standing committee for review.

All departments bring forward their requests. There is give and take for each department's main estimates. Every department has a lot of requests, a lot of needs, but there is a limited budget to go around. We have to make some hard decisions in terms of what PYs, programs, and new initiatives will be funded.

That leads to the House like what I am doing today, sitting in Committee of the Whole answering your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I will reserve my other questions on the program review for EIA.

I have a little bit of curiosity with the grants and contributions. You're also

taking a good look at how this can be delivered better. Are one of the things you're looking at or have you discussed about the possibility of streamlining the whole grants and contributions through, perhaps, your department and there would be no grants and contributions in the departmental budget line items? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for his interesting question. Mr. Chairman, I like to think the Department of Finance is a department that ensures that government departments comply with the *Financial Administration Act*, the FAM directives, and many other policies of the government.

We're not subject matter experts on individual grants and contributions programs. Those would be better suited to remain with the individual departments because they do have the subject matter experts. We would be there to ensure that they administer the grants and contributions programs as per the goals and objectives of the particular programs that are set out by cabinet. That would be our role. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We're on C-4. Finance. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,862,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Go to page C-5. It reads,

Branch Summary. Finance. Policy and Planning. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that one of the priorities of the Policy, Planning and Financial Management Branch of your department for the 2016-17 fiscal year is the "Implementation of the comprehensive tax review." It also indicates that "Over 60 projects have been identified..."

Can you describe what specific changes will be made as a result of your department's comprehensive tax review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Just for the record and for the public interest, our comprehensive tax review is not us trying to raise the taxes. It's a regular item where we would go through and review different tax programs in our government to see if they're more efficient and more effective.

For example, we were talking in the debate in the last few days about the fuel tax rebate, so we're doing a review of that. We're working on the review of the medical expense of Nunavummiut and the property tax arrears list. We have narrowed it down from about 60 down to a more manageable number of 24 or 25. These are ongoing reviews. As members will recall, we did something last year related to tobacco products and cigarettes so that it would be clear for

wholesalers what taxes they would be paying.

It's just an annual thing to make our regime a bit more efficient, more effective, and clearer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that same business plan on page 25 under 2016-17, your second bullet there on page 25 of your business plan under Priorities (2016-17), your department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that one of the priorities of the Policy, Planning and Financial Management Branch of your department for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to "Initiate a review of the *Insurance Act* to identify opportunities to modernize the territory's regulation of the insurance industry."

In what specific ways does the government's regulation of the insurance industry need to be modernized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. This is an early review of the *Insurance Act*. We're working with the Northwest Territories and Yukon. We're having early discussions with them. We're just discussing ways we can work together to modernize our legal frameworks, which are separate but similar. It's just over timing and scope review with our own Act and it will depend on the interest and priorities of the other territories. It's fairly complex

and it's probably unlikely we would do a review on our own. We would like to work with the other [two] territories.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just perused a well written paragraph, so I now have another question.

In your department's draft 2016-19 business plan, it lists the priorities for the Policy, Planning and Financial Management Branch of your department for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Your department wishes to "Develop and Implement an Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit framework for the department." Now for 2016-17, will *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* be part of the plans to resolve alcohol issues or problems? Is that the purpose behind this language? Can you please explain that for my understanding?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his question. The Department of Finance and the Government of Nunavut, as our overall guiding principles, incorporate IQ in our departments. What we're planning to do is develop more IQ in the framework to give people a better understanding of how it should be implemented across the government, and then we will have a committee that discusses and does research on what needs to be reviewed and improved in our departments. That committee is using the eight guiding IQ principles, so

we will make sure it's incorporated and not just empty words. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his forethought since I have been a dedicated advocate for incorporating IQ. For the first time since I was elected to this seat, *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is part of a government plan, so I thank you profusely.

Now, after completion of this plan in our future, with the future elected members of the next Legislative Assembly, does this mean that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and traditional counselling will be incorporated fully and not just wording in a plan? When do you expect to see that or does it not have a time limit as to the implementation? Can you provide me with some background? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his question. I have listened very intently to Mr. Shooyook for the last almost two and a half years. I know he's a strong advocate and champion for IQ. It has been in the government and I know that's what he campaigned on. Again I would like to assure Mr. Shooyook that the Government of Nunavut is very serious about IQ and respecting Inuit societal values. That's why we are striving to incorporate more of that in our department and encouraging other

departments as well. The guiding principles are always in our business plans. We are working very hard, but we don't have a specific timeframe to roll out a framework. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Shooyook, are you finished? Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under your business plan, you talk about negotiating and managing the Territorial Formula Financing Agreement. There have been some questions in the House regarding this. Can you give us an idea of what your relationship is like with your counterpart? I'm sure he's a new guy. How receptive do you feel your counterpart is to the situations we have in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I never met Minister Morneau before he got elected, but when I first heard that our territorial formula financing was going to take a hit, we chatted on the phone for close to 20 minutes. He assured me that he was going to get to work on it right away to look at how that issue occurred. Then when we got to Ottawa, he met with us in the morning and again in the afternoon. I and the two other territories had very productive discussions with him. The Minister of Finance for Yukon is also the premier and the acting minister of finance was the premier, so it was like I was almost like the premier with two premiers and myself.

We had very good dialogue with Minister Morneau. I stressed that it was very important to our territory that we not lose funding because we already feel that we are being under funded. The TFF is intended to provide us with a basic level of service that other Canadians enjoy. It's a real struggle to balance all our needs and demands up here just on the daily O&M part, and then we have our capital projects. He was very receptive. As we saw, they were able to recover \$26 million of the \$34 million we were short, so that was helpful.

I did have an opportunity to also sit down and talk to him face to face about the two business cases that we presented, one for housing and one for energy in Nunavut. He was very receptive of that and asked some good questions. That was very positive. It's not very often you get the Minister of Finance of Canada, who is probably one of busiest people in Canada, so it's not very often you get to meet with him for half an hour on your own and then another half hour with a couple of other finance ministers.

We're very hopeful that on March 22, we will get some good news and then of course, they have to make some legislative changes to ensure that the issue we had with the TFF for this fiscal year does not manifest itself going forward in future fiscal years.

Overall, my impression is we have a very good working relationship with the Minister of Finance and, of course, our Member of Parliament for Nunavut, Hunter Tootoo, is only a phone call or an email away as well. He's in Ottawa. When I saw Minister Tootoo in Cambridge Bay a few weeks ago during the Kitikmeot Trade Show when he was

leaving, I asked him to give the Minister of Finance of Canada a poke and I think he did give him a poke because a few days later, we got the positive announcement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister just clarify for me: when he talked about legislative changes that are needed to be made, is that the Government of Nunavut or the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please clarify that for us, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not the Government of Nunavut that would make those legislative changes; that would be the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us what those changes would be like? What made what happened to Nunavut happen? You say that legislative changes are going to make it so that it doesn't happen again. What are those changes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As near as I can understand,

if I can blame anybody, it's Statistics Canada and they do their own thing. They reviewed the numbers, population growth, and the estimates in infrastructure in all provinces and territories. It's a very complex formula that the Government of Canada uses. They inputted revised data from Stats Canada on December 1. Coincidentally, it was the day, on an annual basis, that the Department of Finance of Canada uses to figure out our TFF for the next year. They inputted that data and out came a lower number.

Finance Canada has reworked the numbers and I'm not privy to the details of what they did, but I think that the numbers will go back three years and then it will go forward. They've got to make these legislative changes. Again, it's a Government of Canada activity that they have to do; it has nothing to do with the three territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We are on C-5. It reads, Branch Summary. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan on page 25 in the Priorities (2016-17), it says, "Conduct a GN-wide employee survey to provide data for the 2019-2022 Human Resources Strategy and contribute to the development of an Employee Wellness Program." What types of information will be obtained through the survey? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the

question. I'm going to give Mr. D'Arcy an opportunity to speak for a while. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I will give him that opportunity. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we're looking at is a range of questions and people's feelings about workplace wellness and how we can improve our workplace; what we're doing well and what we're not doing well with respect to not just an harassment-free workplace but also a workplace where people can be happy to come to work and can be in an environment where they can be productive. I don't have the specific questions in front of me, but the questions are all about employee satisfaction and how they feel in the workplace and how we can do better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. D'Arcy. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question to the Minister of Finance regarding his departmental business plan. He referred to this item on social services earlier. However, with respect to the regional offices listed in C-5, which region would that be placed in? Our colleague, Mr. Shooyook, spoke about that issue, so I wonder where this will go. That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Qirngnuq for the

question. I don't think there's a specific line item for IQ. It's just going to be in that whole policy and planning section and it will be for the overall department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is always good to get information and I'm sure that it will come around later, but it's always good to hear things ahead of time when it comes to expenditure budgeting and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Qirngnuq. I don't think I heard a question. So there was no question in your statement or did you have a question? I don't think I heard a question, so if you would clarify that, please. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was using my dialect. I did have a question in there, but sometimes some people don't understand me and I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. For your information, please feel free and do not apologize for using your own dialect. Let's all use our own dialect.

Minister Peterson, if you understood it through the interpreter, would you respond to that, please. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Qirngnuq for his question. Yes, that is our plan. We're already incorporating IQ through our

government operations and all the guiding principles. It's important to continue that and that's what we're doing here with this; just continue that and make it an important priority in our department and throughout the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Yes, this is going to be my last comment. It's not a question. We will look forward to having *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* implemented in our departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I will look forward to that too with you.

We are on page C-5. It reads, Branch Summary. Finance. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$8,608,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page C-6. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have very many questions in this area, but I would like to know more about the role of the Internal Audit Services Branch that you have. Can you tell us exactly what their role is and how they work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for her two questions. We're a large

organization with a lot of employees and many departments and public agencies, so it's always good, like any large organization, even smaller organizations, I guess, as well if they can afford it, to have the internal audit services so that we can audit as required.

In Internal Audit Services, we do five types of assurances and engagements. We can do compliance audits to make sure departments are complying with the programs that they provide. We can do operational and performance audits to ensure that they're being efficient and effective. We can do forensic audits on departments if they indicate or tell us that they suspect there could be some fraud or investigation. We can provide them with consulting and advisory services as to how to better manage and run their departments or deliver their programs.

As I indicated earlier, we have, I think, ten auditors in Internal Audit Services, but not all positions are filled at all times, so they fluctuate between four and six auditors at any given time because of transfers and people resigning or retiring. We can't audit everything. We have to develop an annual audit plan to ensure that we schedule our time on important projects. Each audit, depending on what type of audit it is, could take anywhere from two weeks to four to six months.

In a nutshell, that's what Internal Audit Services does. They audit departments, provide services, support to departments, and they give the deputy minister and myself reports to read and they're quite comprehensive and detailed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain what triggers an audit? For example, you said forensics - how do you say it - or there's compliance. What triggers an audit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. If I understand it correctly, the audit would be initiated through the audit plan at the request of a particular department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would a department request an audit of their own department and, if so, why would that be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. The department might request an audit on their own department if they suspect there's some wrongdoing in the department. If there is something they detect in their review of reports, they may request an audit. Of course, we would conduct that audit. They're probably audits related to potential fraud, embezzlement, and those sorts of things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I am writing down while I remember what I want to ask. This sparks my interest.

One of my questions is also about entities like Nunavut Tourism or the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the development corporation. Do you conduct audits from them as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We could for outside use. It would depend on what's in their contribution agreement. We could audit organizations like the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation or the Nunavut Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has that happened in the recent past? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have audited the Qulliq Energy Corporation. There have been three or four audits over the last three years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you do an audit, what

happens to that information and how do you use it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. It would depend on the nature of the audit, but typically, we would send the audit back to the client department, and then they would develop a plan and then proceed from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once you have received the information, you go back to the department, and then they take that information and make changes, do you also go back again to make sure that the changes that you said need changing, if that makes any sense, were actually implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Yes, we would do a follow-up audit. It would kind of be pointless to do an audit and make recommendations if we didn't follow up to make sure that the departments were implementing our recommendations. It's no different than the Auditor General of Canada. When they audit the Government of Nunavut, they make recommendations and we respond, and then they may do follow-up audits to find out if we have complied with the recommendations. They have

done that and we could do the same with individual departments or public agencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things too we note in your business plan is that you're actually doing, perhaps, an audit on your internal audit office to see how effective they are. Who is doing that? Is that somebody independent or is that somebody in-house? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. It's a good audit...ah, good question.

>>*Laughter*

I asked Madam Sheila Fraser one time, "Who audits the auditors?" Of course, the auditors have to be audited to make sure that they're doing a good job. They call it quality assurance. It would be an independent firm that would audit the Internal Audit Services and that's a requirement every five years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear. I think independent is good. It's a specific type of work. Let's start off with this: how many beneficiaries do you have in that office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. We don't have any beneficiaries working as internal auditors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us why? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. It's a good question. When we go to competition, we always use Article 23 that beneficiaries are priority hires. People are free to apply if they feel they're qualified. It's open to beneficiaries. It is a very specialized field. You've got to have some accounting training, accounting designation, and audit training, so it's a very complex area. It could be very stressful because you're digging into some very sensitive issues if you're doing compliance audits or forensic audits. It's not an easy job.

Mr. Chairman, if it's possible, I'll ask Deputy Minister D'Arcy to provide some more detailed information as to why there are no beneficiaries in internal audit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister has provided all the

information that I was going to provide. We have had two beneficiaries in internal audit over the last ten years or so who were working along in the auditing regime, but they have both chosen to go on to other positions within the GN. They're both within the Government of Nunavut at this point in time.

We would like to continue an internship type of program in internal audit, but as the minister says, there are specialized educational requirements within internal audit and it is something that we continue to struggle with. If we find a beneficiary who is interested in pursuing further studies in internal audit, we would be very interested in speaking to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Auditing numbers certainly isn't my cup of tea. If it was somebody's interest and they didn't have the qualification, and we wanted to see more beneficiaries working, is there a way...? Even if they don't have the qualifications immediately, they might have the aptitude or the interest or whatever that you could build up to that maybe would even generate enough interest in them to actually go back to school to get that kind of training. Is that something that you would be open to? Is it something that you could work with the Department of EIA? I know they're doing the intern/mentoring program that they have there. Is that something that you could look at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for that question. We can do all that. We have our financial internship program. We do support people who are interested in studying for certified general accountants and certified management accountants. At some point, they're all going to be merged and called "certified public accountants" when we bring forward legislation.

At the same time, it should be understood that it is very specialized training and usually they have to come with an accounting designation. It's a lot of hard work to become a CGA or CMA. If people are interested in being accountants, we're certainly willing to support them and we can support them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions. One, the two Inuit you had working there, what positions were they in? I don't know if that's a secret or whatever. I forgot my other question now. Let's start with that one. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. I was going to rule you out anyways if you tried to ask the second question. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for her one question.

>> *Laughter*

I don't know the individuals in all the jobs, but one of the individuals was a junior auditor and the other was a human resource specialist. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Would those two positions then be targets to try to get other beneficiaries to take the positions that you just quoted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak. The junior auditor position is a definite possibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: We asked questions on this subject. I just want to know how many interns the Department of Finance has that are beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it for me.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. We have four positions available and three are currently filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on Finance. Branch Summary. Internal Audit Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be

Voted. \$1,604,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page C-7. Mr. Alex Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In your Priorities (2015-16), the last bullet on page 28 indicates, "Expand student employment opportunities for students in non-decentralized communities," and then it goes on to say that there were efforts made to have two communities in this program. Will you be expanding this program to other communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. A. Sammurtok for his question. Yes, we would like to expand to other communities. We did try a couple of communities last year, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, where there hadn't been any. We were only able to hire one student in Clyde River, but not in Qikiqtarjuaq. We're going to continue to offer it to other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: What is the 2016-17 budget for the Summer Student Employment Equity Program and how does this amount compare to previous years' budget for this program? Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. A. Sammurtok for the question. The budget in 2015 was \$985,000 and that was the same as previous years. That covers from the April to August 31 period. That would be the budget going forward.

I should mention that in addition, there is \$985,000, but the departments overall, including, I believe, the public agencies, they spent \$2.4 million on summer student employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In 2015, a total of 208 Nunavut students had summer jobs as part of the government's Summer Student Employment Equity Program. 131 of these jobs were located in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. What is your position as minister concerning the idea of providing wage subsidies to municipalities and other employers to hire summer students in Nunavut communities that do not have a large GN presence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. A. Sammurtok for that question. Currently, we are concentrating on a Government of Nunavut program. As he says, it has been quite successful. I believe the federal government makes wage

subsidies available to communities through the Canada Summer Jobs program. There is funding available through the Government of Canada for summer students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On your priorities, page 29 of your business plan, for 2015-16, the second bullet, "Raise the profile of the GN as an attractive place to work, by providing material to job seekers highlighting compensation, benefits, professional development opportunities and flexible work arrangements." Could you explain what "flexible work arrangements" mean? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please explain that to us, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: When I hear the word "flexible," I think of people stretching.

>>*Laughter*

We should do more stretching. You get kind of stiff sitting down here.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Mr. A. Sammurtok. We offer employees an opportunity that as long as they work 7.5 hours and they can get their hours in the work week, as long as they get their 37.5 hours of work in, they can work flex hours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When the Government of Nunavut first started not too long ago in 1999, one of the things that they included was flexible work hours. It never worked. I don't think it will work here. Do you actually know that it's going to work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. A. Sammurtok for his question and comment. We don't do it a lot, but when an employee makes arrangements, they could come in at 9:00 and some employees could leave at 4:00. Typically, it would be associated, perhaps, with parents who have to drop their kids off at school and have to leave work early to pick their kids up. It's those kinds of arrangements.

Again, we're trying to make the Government of Nunavut a place where people can enjoy working. We're not hard and fast on telling a mother to be there right at 8:30 if she can't be, but she can come at 9:00 because she has to drop her kid off at school or leave early to pick the kids up from daycare. As long as it's an arrangement and it works for the employer and it works for them, then that's something we can consider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If there's such an arrangement that's going to be done with flexible work hours, I hope it's for all the work, including the secretary, not just middle management or the supervisors. That's just a comment.

Now, on page 29 of your priorities for 2016-17, the last bullet, "Explore options for leave and attendance software," I thought you already had software for leave and attendance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. A. Sammurtok for his question. We do and we don't. Like any software, when it gets developed, we test it. If it works, that's great and if it doesn't, it's back to the drawing board. That's actually what we have been doing here for a couple years. That's why we call it a pilot project. We're trying to develop a leave and attendance system that works for us. When we test it, it's not quite what we want. We're continuing to work on developing that software. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On your priorities on page 30 of your business plan for 2018-19, second last bullet, "Expand the profile of the GN as an Employer of Choice through larger social media recruitment tools that allow

candidates to view employment opportunities, engage with HR/staffing professionals, share information and network.”

As we're well aware, not all do have access to social media. Is that just to aim for southern employment? Could you explain what you mean by that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. A. Sammurtok for his question. It's a good question. No, it's not just aimed at the southern jurisdictions. In Nunavut and in most communities I know, we have people on social media. As we expand going forward, I'm sure that if we get the high-speed Internet one of these days, we can wish and dream for fibre optics. That's something that we have to look into the future.

I know, in many communities, we do have a lot of people on cellphones, they have iPads, they have their desktop computers, and they're looking at social media. This is one thing we're looking at. You can still go to the job ads at your local HR office. They are posted on the bulletin board. They are in the newspapers. It will still be available to people who, perhaps, don't use social media. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) How many direct appointments have been made by the cabinet to date during

the current 2015-16 fiscal year?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if I have that number right off the top of my head. As a cabinet minister, I see quite a few of them come through the cabinet approval process. It's one of the tools that we use. We have encouraged the departments over the last couple of years to look internally at positions, if there are people who are qualified, and do up the necessary paperwork and submit it to Finance for direct appointment. I don't have a specific number that I can give you right now, but we can certainly get that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: I realize you don't have the numbers, but once you do get the numbers, would you be able to supply the MLAs or the House of the direct appointments for 2015-16 with a breakdown of how many were beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. A. Sammurtok for that question. While he was talking, Christine was digging up the information for me. I can supply that right now. Thank you, Christine.

Between April 2015 and January 2016, there were a total of 43 direct appointments, 37 of which were beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We're on page C-7. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question and that's on page 29 of the business plan where it says, "Develop options to expand the GN employee awards program." I just want to know a little bit more about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. What we have been doing in the last couple of years is recognizing all our long-term service award employees across Nunavut going out on the 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35. In this building, there is someone that's over 43. I think he's coming up to over 45 years this year. Do we have an award for 45 years?

>> *Laughter*

We want to recognize all our long-term service employees, so we will have special events, dinners for them, and give them special awards. We will bring them into a central community and hopefully have the MLAs and the ministers present. It has been quite successful and well received the last couple of years, so we're hoping to continue that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak, you said that you were done with your questions, so I won't acknowledge you again. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for acknowledging me. My first question is in regard to Baker Lake. It's a regional centre in some ways. My colleague asked this question on another issue. Nevertheless, Baker Lake is one of the decentralized communities in Nunavut. The youth usually work in the summer season and I wonder if you have considered that option. There are quite a number of employees there, but if we want our youth to assume these positions in the future, especially aboriginal youth, then summer placements would assist them in learning the ropes. It seems obvious that many people could benefit from this, but I wonder if this was ever considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Very definitely, in fact, last summer, there were ten summer students working in Baker Lake between the government departments and the public agency there. It has been very well utilized in Baker Lake. Baker Lake is actually in the top six for summer student employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In light of that also, what's

the position with Crown agencies, where you have established Crown agencies, where there are strong employment and positive careers in Crown agencies for summer students who could also benefit their knowledge? Would that also be entertained? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Prior to having this question answered, I want members to be cognizant of our requirement for a quorum in the House, as we are required to have a minimum number of members present. Please keep that in mind. I know that sometimes members have to leave the Chamber or have things to do, but I remind members that we cannot proceed without quorum and we have to be aware of that. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank Mr. Mikkungwak for his question. I don't have the breakdown by communities which public agencies were hiring summer students, but I can tell you that the Nunavut Housing Corporation hired 6 summer students, Nunavut Arctic College hired 10, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation hired 14. It's being utilized by the public agencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak indicated that he's done. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many questions on this area, but to start off, this section of your department, Comptrollership, deals with recruitment, retention, and that sort of thing. I'm trying to figure how your department works with the Department of Family

Services, for example. They have labour market initiatives and data that could be very useful for your department in recruiting. Maybe they have people that are participating in their programs that might fit into a job opening.

For example, does your department have a collection of resumés, a repository of resumés? I noticed in your business plan, you're planning to establish a repository for job descriptions, but is there one for resumés? Is there someone in your department that looks at all these resumés and then tries to link for a job opening and contacts them saying, "There's a job opening here. Are you interested?" Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for his question. On the Department of Finance's HR side, we do participate in career days, job fairs, and we do go on recruitment initiative trips across Canada. With respect to labour force development, we don't engage in that; we let Family Services do that.

When it comes to resumés, we would keep a repository of resumés for casual employees. If a specific department requires casuals, they could contact the HR department and then they would view the casual list to see if there's anyone qualified or suitable for the position they are trying to fill. Typically, we would not have an individual go through resumés and then call people saying that we have a job available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose, if there are people that are only interested in casual work, you have their resumés on file for them. Is that how I understand it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Is that the case? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for that question. Yes, there are a lot of people that are only interested in casual work and they would have their resumés on file. Again, if the department is looking for someone with specific qualifications, they can review the resumés on file and contact them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Apart from that, my only other question is: when you're advertising for any position within the public service, does every advertisement state the salary or the range of salary? Does that apply to all advertisements for the GN? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I would like to say all, but I have to qualify that. For the most part, the range of pay would be on the job ad, at least the ones I have seen. I wouldn't want to say "all" because there might be

one or two out there that I don't know about that don't have the salary. That might be, for example, at a deputy minister level, so I can't say "all." For the most part, the range of salary is on the competition notice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have only one short question for clarification. In the minister's response to a question about the Summer Student Employment Equity Program, he said that there were none in Qikiqtarjuaq. How come there were none in Qikiqtarjuaq? Was it because nobody was qualified or capable or there was no interest at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. I think somebody brought it up, but if Minister Peterson would like to respond, I give him the opportunity.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Keyootak for the question. My answer was in response to the summer student program. There were opportunities in Qikiqtarjuaq for summer students to apply and there were no applications received from students. That was simply the case. There were no applications and it had nothing to do with casual employees; it was summer students. Jobs were available, but summer students didn't apply. We don't have any explanation for why they didn't apply. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I think that responded to your question, Mr. Keyootak, and I think that's it for

you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on the ethics officer. Nunavut's new ethics officer was appointed last year. I'm just wondering if all departments and all communities have been notified of what this person does. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. It seems to be well publicized that we have an ethics officer. It's in the *Public Service Act* and I would hope that all departments are aware of the ethics officer, what the role is, and how he could become involved with the departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut's new ethics officer was appointed. When do you expect to receive his first annual report for the 2015-16 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. First of all, the year-end is coming up March 31. I believe, under the Act, he's required to give me a report and then I have to table it within six months. I don't have the Act in front of me, but I think that's the requirement. I'm hoping that within few short months after year-end, I will get that report. I'm

not in contact with the ethics officer myself. As a minister, I can't just pick the phone up and ask him for stuff. I have to let him do his work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On another topic, the government's current collective agreement with the NEU expired on September 30, 2014. As of today, what is the status of collective bargaining with the NEU? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for his question. Mr. Chairman, the NEU and the Government of Nunavut have had several bargaining sessions. As of today, we still don't have an agreement and I believe we may be going to mediation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one more question. The government's current collective agreement with the Nunavut Teachers Association expires on June 30, 2017. In your business plan on page 29, your priority is to "Negotiate the Nunavut Teachers Association collective agreement." When are formal negotiations with NTA scheduled to begin? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. That's an interesting question. Minister Quassa and I were in Cambridge Bay three or four weeks ago. It seems like three or four weeks ago. We were at a teachers' professional development conference. The minister and I were sitting in the front row and they were lobbying for raises. We had to listen and they actually said, "Hopefully we will get an increase," but we haven't heard from them yet.

Teachers are very important to our communities and we hope that, at some point, we will begin negotiations. The last time around, we had very good negotiations and Minister Quassa and I, with their boss there, we were able to sign an agreement. It was very productive. It has been a very good relationship. We're hopeful that, at some point, they will approach us so that we can get those negotiations underway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We're on Branch Summary. Finance. Comptrollership. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$26,926,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page C-8. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have one question, but I will need to listen to the response. Looking at the financial numbers for children under the

age of 18, the Nunavut Child Benefit, it has remained the same. Did they consider increasing it in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, Mr. Chairman. We're not certain of what Mr. Mikkungwak is asking. If he could clarify his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Mikkungwak, please clarify your question.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Nunavut Child Benefit, when I look at that budget line across 2015-16, 2016-17, right across, it's the same amount, \$2,055,000. Is the department satisfied with that amount due to the cost of living in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) For your information, Minister Peterson, the item that is being referred to is on page 31 of your business plan. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for clarifying it. My answer would be that we believe that that's a fair amount. That figure is adequate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Employee Benefits,

can we get a further breakdown on page 30 of the draft business plan, 2016-19? There are Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission premiums, relocation, medical travel, and other benefits. Can we get a further breakdown of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission premiums, that would be \$4,438,000; Government of Nunavut employees' sick leave accrued would be \$3 million; hunters' and trappers' claims would be \$150,000; Ontario Employers Health Tax, \$13 million; relocation would be \$350,000; and then we have the Summer Student Employment Equity Program, \$985,000; deputy ministers' supplementary retiring benefits would be \$338,000; and travel and transportation, that's \$14,100,000. What else we got here? That's all, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the bulk of that is the medical travel for staff. Can we get a sense, out of the workforce, how many employees take...? It must be a lot, that a lot of your employees are using this medical travel benefit. Is there a number associated with this \$14 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for that question. I remember reading that number and all the stats. Christine is digging for it right now, if you can just bear with us. There are quite a few Government of Nunavut employees who use medical travel.

Sorry, Mr. Chairman, we just can't find that number, but off the top of my head, I think over 2,000 employees have used GN medical travel. There's an average cost and we can get that information and provide it to the committee if you agree. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Please do that and once you find it, for our information purposes, if you can forward it at that time, we would appreciate receiving that information. Thank you, Minister. I am sorry. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief question to ask the Minister of Finance regarding the child benefit program, which I believe is a Canada-wide program. What I would like to understand is if one of our children is a student, what age does the student have to be before the parents can no longer receive this benefit? That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for that question. I don't have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I thought he was going to answer the question and I was prepared to supplement it. Now, without a response to the first one, I believe he won't be able to respond to this other question. I was going to ask it anyways, but if he can't answer it now, I can wait for the appropriate time to ask my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I don't think you asked a question. I believe you just let them know that you will raise it as a question perhaps during one of our sessions or at a later meeting. Further, Minister Peterson, if you wish to provide the information, you have the discretion to either provide it when you have the answer or even to provide the information solely because members wish to know about that issue, obviously. Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on page 31 of the business plan, Energy Subsidies. It's a little over \$10 million. Can you explain how that program works? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut electrical subsidy program is available for people who own their own houses or people who are in houses that are paying the market rate. They will be eligible for the subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this a subsidy that we see on our invoice or is it a separate thing that we need to apply for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for her question. That's correct; it's on your invoice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: It also talks about supporting the development of local businesses. When you have a home versus a business, what's the breakdown of the subsidy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I'm going to have you allow Mr. D'Arcy to answer this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The residential rate is easy. It's subsidized territory-wide at half the Iqaluit rate. I'm afraid that I don't remember the rate for small businesses. However, I do now.

>> *Laughter*

Businesses with annual revenues of \$2 million or less may apply for a subsidy

on a yearly basis and they receive the subsidy on the first 1,000 kilowatt hours that are used, but the amount of the subsidy is not in my briefing note. Of course, for us, for consumers, it's the first 700 kilowatt hours for April until September and the first 1,000 kilowatt hours from October to March. That would be at half the current Iqaluit rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if your department has ever spoken of or thought about subsidies. A long time ago when I worked for the Kakivak Association, instead of a full payment, they paid some of our rent. It didn't go through us, so we didn't get taxed on it. Is this something the government could look at or is interested in looking into? In lieu of higher and higher pay that we get taxed on, is there any way or any mechanism, if somebody wanted to, because it would be non-taxable, that you would pay the oil bill or the electrical bill? I don't know if that makes any sense to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for her question. That would all still be employee benefits and taxable income. As we know, you can't beat Canada Revenue Agency. They will get it one way or another. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Even if it was paid directly? With no money going through the employee, if it was paid directly to, let's say, the Uqsuq Corporation if it was going to be for an oil bill or QEC if it was going to be electrical, that's how it was done before and that's what we were told, that it was a break in taxes because it didn't go to us directly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for her question. As far as we know, it would still be taxable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Is that something that you can look at, at least go and see if that is the case or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am fairly confident that it's not the case. I can have my taxation people prepare a little review, and then we can give you some information on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) We're looking forward to that information. Did you want to add, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't want to add to the taxation thing, but I want to respond to Mr. Mikkungwak's earlier question, if you will allow me. We've got so much paper down here that we finally dug out what we were looking for. Is it Mr. Mikkungwak or Mr. Joanasie? This has to do with medical travel.

We processed 2,631 individual staff member and dependant medical travel claims from April 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016. The average cost per claim processed was \$4,310. Airfare, of course, is the bulk of it. The average airfare was \$2,976. The cost to date for medical travel is \$14,701,484. It's quite significant. We're working to better identify and isolate the drivers behind the increasing costs of the GN medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for responding to that question, Minister Peterson. We're on Finance. Branch Summary. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I forgot one thing. When I look under the Summary of Grants and Contributions on C-9 under Centrally Administered Funds, you don't have anything now for the upcoming year for the Homeowners' Fuel Rebate. Can you talk about that with us for a bit and why there is nothing there? I always feel that homeowners need all the help they can get. Things are very expensive, yet I see there is a cut there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for that question. That isn't the program *per se*. It's a rebate. We have to be careful of the word. It's a rebate that's offered occasionally when we feel that homeowners need a break from fuel costs. This year, the fuel prices actually went down. It has been a fairly mild winter around here. Well, I see Mr. Mikkungwak shaking his head.

>> *Laughter*

He gets the blizzards that come through Cambridge Bay. We weaken them and then they get to Baker Lake.

It's a rebate that is offered infrequently, but if we feel the combination of cold weather and high fuel prices, we may offer rebates. This year, we're not offering it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Ms. Angnakak, are we done? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you very much. I think we have a difference of opinion. It was very cold. I know a lot of people have freeze-ups and all that and every little bit helps. The 10 cents didn't make that much of a dent in the bill, so I think the need is still there.

I think, in the coming years, we've got to really think about how we can help homeowners be homeowners for a long period of time and every little penny counts. Not everybody makes a lot of money, even though they are homeowners. I know that a lot of homeowners really do struggle with the bills that they have, but they want to be independent, they want to stay in their

own homes, and they don't want to rely on other people for their housing.

Even though the budget was...I don't have my glasses on...\$680,000, I'm hoping that for the next fiscal year when we do this type of planning again, you would keep that in mind and keep that amount there. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak, that was just a comment and an advisement to the minister for his serious consideration.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you. We're on Finance. Branch Summary. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$54,294,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page C-3. It reads, Department Summary. Finance. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$94,294,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, do you agree that the Department of Finance is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, we have concluded your department. If you have any closing remarks, I now give you the floor. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you and the committee for your very good questions and I hope we're able to answer any clarifications and information that we committed to providing. We will follow up with that over the coming days.

I would like to thank all of my officials across Nunavut and in all our departments for all their work helping us prepare this budget.

Of course, I would like to thank my officials who were here with me today. Alma Power didn't get a chance to come here at the witness chair and Peter Tumilty. They're doing a lot of good day-to-day work for the department and supervising all our employees.

I would especially like to thank the Deputy Minister of Finance for being here at the witness table to help me out and also Christine Bens for being here. She has done a lot of work here digging through the binders to find us information. I was hoping I would be able to turn a question over to her to give her some experience, but she has done a great job. I thank everybody who has helped us to this point.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my ministerial colleagues for being here today as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Using my discretion as the Chair, (interpretation ends) we're going to take a five-minute break while we get paperwork ready for the next

department, which is ED&T. Please join me in doing jumping jacks for the next five minutes.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Committee recessed at 17:35 and resumed at 17:45*

Chairman (interpretation): I would now like to call the committee meeting back to order. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Committee Motion 002 – 4(3): Motion to Continue to Complete Opening Comments of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Pursuant to Rule 6(2), I move that the Committee of the Whole stay in session in order to complete the opening comments of the Department of ED&T. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. The motion is in order and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. There are none. The motion is carried and we will now proceed with the opening comments for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. I would now like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk, if she has any opening comments, she now has the floor. Ms. Kanayuk.

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can begin with my opening comments.

I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole to present the 2016-17 operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, which includes the amounts allocated to grants and contributions, compensation and benefits, and other expenses.

The total proposed budget for the fiscal year 2016-17 is \$69,037,000. This represents a modest increase of \$936,000, or 1.4 percent, over the budget for 2015-16 and will help us manage Nunavut's transportation system and support the continuing development of our economy. These budget increases include:

- 1) \$100,000 for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- 2) \$587,000 for the operations and maintenance of Nunavut Airports; and
- 3) \$249,000 for the operations and maintenance of the Iqaluit International Airport.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, in addition to these increases, the department is re-profiling funding in the amount of \$292,000 from the Country Food Distribution Program contribution budget to create and support a position which will coordinate projects under that program.

While this does represent a reduction in the contribution budget for the Country

Food Distribution Program, it does not represent any decrease in our commitment and support for this program and its objectives. On the contrary, this re-profiling, along with policy changes that enhance its flexibility in supporting communities, should increase program uptake and ensure the Country Food Distribution Program will be much more effective in achieving its objectives.

The increased support for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation will enable the corporation to provide more effective community outreach and further encourage and support business development in the communities. This matter was discussed with Members of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts this past September. The government has now provided its response to the standing committee's report.

The proposed increases for Nunavut Airports will help address the significant cost pressures faced in meeting the essential ongoing operations and maintenance activities necessary to support airport infrastructure at community airports across the territory, with the exception of Iqaluit.

Finally, for the Iqaluit International Airport, the proposed increase stems directly from the scheduled increase in the annual service payment. It is important to emphasize that the O&M annual service payment is separate from the capital payment.

While core airport operations are now carried out by the private partner, the department still needs to retain enough

internal capacity to manage those responsibilities which have not been transferred to the private partner. This includes management of activities such as commercial development and leases on airport lands, collection of aeronautical fees, and oversight on the project agreement provisions with respect to Inuit participation in employment and contracting opportunities.

As members are aware, the safe and reliable operation of this airport and, indeed, all our airports are of central importance to Nunavut's transportation system and to our economy.

As well as these proposed budget changes, there are some changes to the way certain items are accounted for in the proposed budget. The Socio-economic Monitoring Committees program is being presented as a separate line item in the department's budget for the first time in 2016-17.

These regional committees include government agencies, regional Inuit associations, representatives from each community, and industry proponents. Their mandate, which stems directly from the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, is to implement project certificate socio-economic monitoring requirements for major development projects.

One of the priorities articulated in *Sivumut Abluqta*, "economic growth through responsible development across all sectors," is most relevant to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The department is committed to delivering on this priority

by pursuing the following actions. We are:

- Ensuring the application of sound regulatory processes to attract and manage responsible resource development;
- Encouraging and supporting economic development initiatives that build on and add value to identified areas of potential, including the arts and tourism sectors;
- Promoting entrepreneurship and business development by simplifying rules and making it easier for small business to comply; and finally,
- Supporting the development of current and future Nunavut artists in all media to produce high-quality work and to market their work across Canada and around the world.

The department's budget, including the changes proposed, will help the Government of Nunavut fulfill these commitments.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, besides the areas I have mentioned, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is also continuing to make progress on a number of important files, including:

- Renewal of the NNI Policy in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and I am very hopeful that we will be able to bring forward a new NNI Policy by the end of our spring sitting;

- (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, we are also encouraging the responsible development of our territory's mineral and petroleum resources; and
- Improving driver's licence and vehicle registration services to Nunavummiut while also increasing motor vehicle safety through vehicle inspections and public awareness.

With respect to driver's licence and vehicle registration services, I would like to highlight that we are creating two indeterminate motor vehicle clerk positions, one in Rankin Inlet and one in Cambridge Bay, and I am confident that this will improve services in these two communities and the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions generally.

Mr. Chairman, the main estimates and business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for 2016-17 reflect the department's mandate to develop Nunavut's economy and maintain and improve Nunavut's transportation system. This budget will allow the department to fulfill its commitments under *Sivumut Abluqta*.

I would be pleased to respond to any of the committee's questions on the department's 2016-17 main estimates and business plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell-Kanayuk. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good evening. I am

pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates and 2016-19 Business Plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2016-17 operations and maintenance budget of \$69,037,000 has increased by approximately 1.3 percent since the introduction of the department's 2015-16 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 137. This is a decrease of four positions from the 2015-16 main estimates.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's proposed 2016-17 main estimates include a total of \$25,751,000 in grants and contributions expenditures. This amount constitutes approximately 37 percent of the department's total operations and maintenance budget.

As members will recall, the Commissioner's Opening Address that was delivered at the beginning of the Second Session of the current Legislative Assembly announced that one of the government's priorities would be to "ensure funds provided to organizations, communities, and individuals adhere to better accountability practices that achieve the outcomes this government expects from its investment." This objective was also

included in the Minister of Finance's 2014 Budget Address.

Although members recognize the need for the government to safeguard proprietary information of private entities, the purpose and goals for which public money is being provided to private entities must be disclosed. This, in turn, should assist the government and all Members of the Legislative Assembly in evaluating the extent to which grants and contributions expenditures are actually achieving their objectives and providing value for money.

For example, the government's most recent annual reports on grants and contributions spending have indicated that a significant number of financial contributions have been made by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to for-profit businesses. Although the annual reports identify the programs under which funding was provided, the actual purpose of the funding is often not clearly explained, much less the actual results and outcomes of the spending.

I would also note that a detailed written question concerning the Strategic Investments Program was asked in the Legislative Assembly on June 2 of 2015. The department's response to the written question indicated, in part, that it "lacks an automated real time system to allow program management staff to collect meaningful monitoring and evaluation data."

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's proposed 2016-17 main estimates include \$3.9 million for its Strategic

Investments Program. The Strategic Investments Program Policy was revised on December 3, 2015 and will expire on March 31, 2021. The Strategic Investments Program Policy provides that “The Minister is accountable for the overall program funding and results, and will table annually in the Legislative Assembly, or otherwise make available to the public, a summary of contributions detailing the name of each successful applicant, the amount of each contribution, the type of investment being supported, and the community.” However, no such annual report has ever been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

I would also note that a number of other policies administered by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation contain similar annual reporting provisions regarding expenditures incurred under the Community Transportation Initiatives Program and the Country Food Distribution Program.

The standing committee recommends that the next annual report on administration of the Strategic Investments Program account in detail for efforts made by the department to evaluate the extent to which its expenditures under the program, especially contributions to for-profit businesses, have actually achieved measurable benefits for the territory in such areas as employment generation for residents or infrastructure development in communities.

In September of 2013, two reports concerning the NNI Policy were tabled in the Legislative Assembly. On December 4 of 2014, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the

Government of Nunavut and NTI “on the process for amending the NNI Policy.” The department’s draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that “A final draft of the NNI Policy has been completed and is being reviewed. An implementation strategy will be developed in conjunction with key stakeholders.”

Mr. Chairman, a number of concerns have been raised in the Legislative Assembly regarding issues related to the government’s contracting and procurement practices, including the question of whether the current Contracting Appeals Board should be replaced with a new body that has a broader mandate to hear appeals of government contract awards based on evaluative factors beyond simply the application of the NNI Policy.

The first *Nunavut Economic Development Strategy* was released in June of 2003 and reached the end of its ten-year life in the spring of 2013. The department’s draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that “The Nunavut Economic Development Strategy group met in December 2015 and participated in the development of a Nunavut Economic Development Strategy II for Nunavut. It is anticipated that the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy II will be finalized by January 2016.” The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling of the new strategy.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation administers no fewer than a dozen formal policies concerning its funding programs. During last year’s Committee of the Whole consideration of the

department's 2015-16 main estimates, concerns were raised regarding the expiration of a significant number of these policies. The standing committee is pleased to note that progress has been made by the department in renewing a number of its formal policies.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's proposed 2016-17 main estimates include \$700,000 in core funding for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, \$3,358,000 in core funding for the Nunavut Development Corporation, and \$3,085,000 in core funding for Nunavut Tourism. The 2015-16 Ministerial Letters of Expectation to the chairs of the boards of directors of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation were not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until October 30 of 2015, almost seven months into the fiscal year. The standing committee looks forward to the minister's 2016-17 letters of expectation to these entities being tabled in the House in a more timely manner.

Responsibility for the Government of Nunavut's Energy Secretariat was transferred from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation on July 1 of 2012. The department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to "Support the Qulliq Energy Corporation and private industry in developing alternative energy options for Nunavut." It also indicates that it is "working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to determine the feasibility of solar hot water systems on new and existing multiplex units."

On November 5 of 2015, a formal motion was passed in the Legislative Assembly calling for a comprehensive report on the activities and expenditures of the Government of Nunavut's Energy Secretariat to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the first sitting day of the spring 2016 sitting. Members look forward to reviewing this report with care.

In January of 2015, the Nunavut Mining Symposium Society hosted an "Oil and Gas Summit" in Iqaluit. The focus of the summit was to provide "a consensual path forward for all with an interest in Nunavut's petroleum industry and possible future exploration and development." The department's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to "Work with partners and stakeholders to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment to address petroleum exploration and development in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait."

Given the concern expressed by impacted communities regarding such matters as seismic testing, the standing committee urges the minister to provide regular updates to the House concerning the status of the planned strategic environmental assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is responsible for administering the *Development Partnership Agreement Policy*, which expires on March 31, 2016. Mining companies that enter into DPAs with the Government of Nunavut may be eligible for fuel tax rebates. The department's 2015-18 business plan indicated that it "continues to work with

Agnico Eagle Mines, Baffinland and TMAC Resources on Development Partnership Agreement negotiations, which remain at a preliminary stage.” However, the department’s 2016-19 business plan makes no mention of development partnership agreements. The standing committee urges the minister to clarify the future of this program.

On March 31 of 2015, the Government of Nunavut relinquished its Community Aerodrome Radio Station services contract with NAV CANADA. A private company, ATS Services, now delivers CARS services to Nunavut communities on behalf of NAV CANADA. The standing committee urges the minister to table a comprehensive report in the Legislative Assembly on the impact that this transition has had on airport operations, employment, and CARS training in the territory.

The department’s 2014-17 business plan indicated that one of its priorities during the fiscal year was to “Update 20-year capital needs assessment for Nunavut airports.” The department’s 2015-18 business plan indicated that the capital needs assessment had been completed and would “be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.” However, despite repeated requests from Members of the Legislative Assembly, this commitment has not yet been fulfilled.

Members fully understand and recognize that simply identifying airport capital needs does not bind the government into necessarily funding any specific capital project. However, the information contained in such a capital assessment would be of benefit to all MLAs. The standing committee continues to call on

the minister to table her department’s 20-year capital needs assessment for Nunavut Airports in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates and 2016-19 Business Plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Well read. (interpretation) Pursuant to Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and will report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13 and would like to report progress and that one committee motion was adopted. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 11:

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

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 11, at 9:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:17*

