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**Monday, October 24, 2016**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

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

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

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**Allan Rumbolt**  
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*Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation*

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**Tom Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, October 24, 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, Hon. George Kuksuk, 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): Mr. Mikkungwak, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 168 – 4(3):  
Purple Sealskin Patch Campaign**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Unnusakkut*, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, the federal inquiry on murdered and missing indigenous women and girls begins across Canada this fall. This is a difficult issue that affects us all.

Violence in Nunavut is 11 times higher than Canada's national average. The delicate, complex, and profound issue of ending family violence needs the commitment of many levels of government, partners, and community members. As Premier, I am dedicated to strengthening this government's programs and services in support of the victims of violence and in the pursuit of minimizing violence across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, you will notice that all members are wearing purple sealskin patches today. We borrowed from the Moosehide campaign, a grassroots initiative from British Columbia started by a father who wanted his daughter to know that violence against women will not be tolerated.

Mr. Speaker, the patches created by women involved in the Sewing for Survival program are a symbol of prevention of family violence, and we wear them to show our solidarity for ending violence in our homes.

Mr. Speaker, November is Family Violence Prevention Month and building healthy relationships is an important step in reducing family violence in our communities. I would like to highlight a few programs that aim to support this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, Family Services offers community-based programs that work directly with men and boys. It promotes health, healing, and recovery from the

impact of violence because men also require support against violence they have endured and need to be part of the solution.

The Department of Justice plays a central role in assisting victims of crime, including victims of family violence. Our *Family Abuse Intervention Act* allows the department to assist individuals needing an emergency protection order or a community intervention order as a result of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, in Rankin Inlet the Pulaarvik Friendship Centre has programs to support couples affected by domestic violence. Together we can help reduce family violence.

Mr. Speaker, we established a cross-departmental working group leading up to the national inquiry into murdered and missing women to ensure a coordinated approach to support victims and families. We are also working with a broader group made up of external partners to support the national inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, the sealskin patches are being made available at community sessions during the inquiry for victims and their loved ones to wear in support and unity.

The national inquiry will likely be very difficult for some people, as they provide testimony, personal perspective, and insight on tragic events. I encourage all survivors, family members, or loved ones of a victim to call the Government of Nunavut victims services toll-free line at 1-866-456-5216 to speak to someone about the inquiry and how they may be able to participate.

Mr. Speaker, family violence is a tragic issue, and it is my sincere hope that we can reduce the instances of violence in Nunavut with open dialogue, understanding, and a promise to heal together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

**Minister's Statement 169 – 4(3):  
MMIWG Family Prevention  
Month**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**  
(interpretation): Mr. Speaker, today I am honoured to wear the purple sealskin patch with my colleagues, a symbol of our joint commitment to end violence against our women and girls.

More than ever we must come together and collectively act to strengthen the safety and well-being of our families and communities. This November also marks Family Violence Prevention Month, and the purple sealskin patch further serves as a symbol of hope and unity as we endeavour to end family violence in our territory.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I am pleased to be part of Canada's historic inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, a demographic unreasonably impacted by violence, abuse, and systemic discrimination.

In August the federal government announced the five commissioners who



will lead the inquiry and listen to our stories, our experiences. Earlier in September I attended the FPT on the status of women and heard promising practices from jurisdictions across the country. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share that action and advocacy is happening and is happening at every level.

As the national inquiry takes place, we continue to support survivors of family violence and the families of missing and murdered Inuit women in Nunavut. It is my goal as co-lead to ensure that the national inquiry will build upon the important work already being done to address family violence in Nunavut and that the process will help us heal.

The way forward demands collaboration across sectors so we can achieve in every home and every workplace the respectful, caring relationships that we as Nunavummiut all deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 328 – 4(3): Tribute to Jacob Saimaiyuk**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the late family friend, Jacob Saimaiyuk.

He was born in Kangiqturuluk outside of (interpretation ends) Cumberland Sound (interpretation) around the Pangnirtung area in 1944. He was laid to rest on Friday here in Iqaluit. He is survived by his wife, Nicotye Kilabuk, and four children. He was also a grandfather, a younger brother, and a hunting buddy to many in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, Jacob was like an older brother to my husband, Iniasi Kanayuk. My husband knew him since they were growing up at Ungujalik, then Illutalik, and then here in Iqaluit. He will be greatly missed by the many people who knew him.

Jacob was a volunteer with the search and rescue group here. He would also take part and volunteer his time without pay.

Jacob also went on the radio when he knew that there was something that the hunters needed to be cautious of and warned them by making sure they knew what to be careful about.

He cared for others and would share his catch with many. He honoured and served God. Let us remember him and his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement 329 – 4(3): Strange Sounds from Fury and Hecla Strait Area**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My fellow residents of Igloolik are in my thoughts.

I also wish my colleagues a good afternoon today.

Mr. Speaker, based on the upcoming months in the region around our community of Igloolik, several concerns have been expressed over the last few weeks. This concern stems from people hearing strange sounds from Aukkarnirjuaq, or in English (interpretation ends) Fury and Hecla Strait, (interpretation) which is situated immediately north of Igloolik around the vicinity of an island called Salliq, which is directly east of Hall Beach.

Mr Speaker, I imagine you are aware and I know you are familiar with the fact that our community held concerns and that our local HTO held the same concerns. This polynya was used for hunting and the name Aukkarnirjuaq means “big polynya,” but lately it hasn’t harboured any seals and hunters relayed the fact that no one was catching seals or bearded seals at the polynya.

The sound that was heard was emanating from the seafloor. Furthermore, a sailing ship was seen passing by this summer. The sailors stated that they also heard this sound emanating from the seafloor when they were in the seas.

Mr. Speaker, after spending some time researching the projects approved by the Nunavut Research Institute and other regulatory agencies, there were no projects listing any type of sound-emitting devices or any type of research using sound emitters, but there were no permitted projects.

I am quite pleased, by going through the good offices of our Premier, that a request for information was submitted to

the (interpretation ends) Department of National Defence. (interpretation) We also pinpointed the location as being about 70 kilometres from the DND (interpretation ends) North Warning Site (interpretation) located in Hall Beach. It is quite close. Now, DND received this request and they conducted their own investigation into the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member’s Statement 330 – 4(3):  
Appreciation to the Department of  
Economic Development and  
Transportation**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me start by expressing my pride in the red jerseys that triumphed over their antagonists, the Bruins, on Saturday. That made me happy over the weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Transportation. Last week I queried her about the airport safety stickers that were stuck on the doors for arriving passengers.

Shortly thereafter my questioning, I happened to go to the airport and the signs were translated into Inuktitut and French. The signs were quickly replaced even prior to the end of the day. I want to take this opportunity to thank the department for their quick turnaround. I wanted to thank the minister for that and to state that this is a good beginning.

There are still areas that require updates in the airport and elsewhere throughout

our government office signage, as every sign should include all languages officially recognized.

I wanted to acknowledge the minister and her department for the quick work denoting dangerous steps for arriving passengers into Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

**Member's Statement 331 – 4(3):  
Language Services for Unilingual  
Medical Clients**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Prior to making my statement, I want to first extend to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut a good day wish.

Yesterday as well, my best friend and my wife's best friend celebrated their anniversary. When they got married, we were heavily involved in the celebrations. My wife and I were assisting Brian and Sharon Ookowt during the wedding and their anniversary was yesterday. (interpretation ends) Happy belated seventh anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo a concern that was raised by my colleague from South Baffin. Mr. Speaker, it is extremely important that when our unilingual medical patients travel out of the territory to receive health services, they are provided with information in their language.

Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that patients who arrive to stay at the Winnipeg boarding facility are asked to read a form from a monitor and sign off on it before they are allowed to stay there. The rules and regulations that are on the form are only written in English.

Mr. Speaker, some of these patients are returning on a regular basis to receive cancer treatment. The fact that they have to repeatedly agree to a set of rules and regulations in a language they don't understand adds insult to injury.

Mr. Speaker, to make matters worse, when medical clients try to contact the Office of Patient Relations to discuss their concerns, the office does not have adequate resources on hand to address their issue in the language of their choice.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the government to make every effort to ensure that Inuit language needs are met, especially when it comes to health services, which can be sensitive and upsetting.

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

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

**Member's Statement 332 – 4(3): The  
Need for an Inuit Counselling  
Centre**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to once again stress the importance of truly

incorporating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into the workings of our government for the benefit of our people, our children, and our families.

Mr. Speaker, this need is especially critical when it comes to social services and the way in which government services address family issues. It is important that families are helped to stay together, children and parents.

Mr. Speaker, to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* does not just mean using the words and saying it is so. We need to have real Inuit counselling. I urge the government to establish an Inuit counselling centre where individuals, parents, and families can learn from the perspective of Inuit lifestyle.

Traditional parenting involved strength, compassion, and discipline. Too many parents have lost those skills. Too many have not learned the important lessons as they were growing up. Children are not listening to their parents and when the government apprehends children, taking them away from their families, the problem gets worse.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken about this issue many times, but it seems that the government... .

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

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken about this issue many times, but it seems that the government is not listening. I hope that my words will soon be heard and the government will follow my suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 333 – 4(3): Successful Interagency Meeting**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the success of Cape Dorset's recent interagency meeting which brought together a number of individuals and agencies to discuss issues facing the community and how best to deal with them.

Mr. Speaker, the interagency meeting concept was resurrected after a yearlong break, mostly due to school safety concerns and other issues relating to the safety of the community.

Mr. Speaker, this type of meeting is an excellent way to foster partnership and coordination. It is important that we be proactive and prepare for situations instead of being reactive and left to handle the aftermath of crisis after crisis.

Mr. Speaker, the interagency meeting allows for the sharing of information as well as learning from each other about what kinds of ideas work and which don't. Mr. Speaker, networking in this way builds trust and reciprocity.

Sometimes it's just good to see the face of the person you may have spent a lot of time on the phone with discussing a specific case or situation.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have taken part in this meeting. We have proposed to continue meeting on a monthly basis. I look forward to exploring and adapting many positive approaches to address the safety and well-being of the community of Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 334 – 4(3):  
Traditional Caribou Hunting  
Practices in Pangnirtung**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Nunavummiut, people of Pangnirtung, and our local hunters.

I rise today to speak to this practice that is still used in our community: awaiting caribou movements back to the coast. We used this practice in Pangnirtung, albeit with long interim periods in waiting for the caribou to migrate from the interior. Some hunters, not many, still undertake this due to the low numbers of caribou.

The term means that after caribou have migrated inland, once the lakes ice over and snow falls, the caribou habitually migrated to the coastal areas around the fiords of Pangnirtung where traditional waiting spots are situated. Nowadays the caribou rarely pass to the coast, so not many hunters practise this caribou coastal migration hunt anymore.

In particular the two sites traditionally used called Qaggiluktuq and Nunataaq were used for caribou hunting at that period. Although they may occasionally be used, most traditional sites are no longer used due to the low numbers of caribou we face. This was part of our Inuit traditional practices which I learnt from my father and father-in-law, as well as my brother-in-law.

Now that this practice is hardly in use today, if our descendants are not passed on this traditional knowledge based on ancient beliefs and practices, then they will never practise this due to the lack of animals to hunt. This practice will remain in our mental knowledge banks and older generations will fondly recall their old coastal caribou hunting practices in the fall, just prior to or at the seasonal rut.

Due to this change in practices, I have voiced a past practice. I recalled the practice this morning when I looked outside and saw the weather conditions, with a bit of snow haze, a bit of windy conditions with falling temperatures. When I saw that, it hit me and I wanted to speak to the practice I recalled, as it is tied into the traditional culture of the Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 335 – 4(3):  
Grand Opening of Baffin Larga**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my congratulations to this organization where I was once involved as a manager at Baffin Larga based in Ottawa. They recently held a grand opening last week or perhaps the week before.

Nonetheless, I apologize that I was unable to attend to that opening. I was of the mind that perhaps the Baffin MLAs would be invited when I heard about the future opening, but there were no invitations to us, which is regrettable as a Baffin MLA in light of the constant references to the building and its operations.

Even if that is the situation, I still want to extend my congratulations to the administrators for Baffin Larga and they are the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and the Nunasi Corporation, as they own the building. The Larga facility is very important to the residents of the Baffin region, especially our residents who require medical treatment. It is much like a home to them.

Furthermore, the reason why I take extra pride in their accomplishments is due to the employees, although it isn't an entirely happy environment due to some patients who are unhappy with their situation or are facing life-changing events while alone and away from their families.

The Baffin Larga employees in Ottawa are tireless workers. Although they have a stressful job, they continue without a fuss. I want to express my appreciation for their efforts when facing tiresome people who may not be sociable or when a service is demanded that is over and above their duties. They never complain

and work tirelessly to house these patients in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss without mentioning the facility manager, Lynn Kilabuk. She manages the facility along with all the staff working there. To all of them I say that their work is much appreciated and we are immensely thankful. Although most people don't express their thanks, I again thank you on behalf of all Inuit for trying to accommodate them to the best of your abilities and skills, and we haven't forgotten your work here in the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will proceed. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

#### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

##### **Question 431 – 4(3): High Arctic Infrastructure**

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

The current business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicates that one of its priorities for the current 2016-17 fiscal year is to, and I quote, "Complete planning work for remediation and removal of decommissioned airport buildings in Qikiqtarjuaq, Coral Harbour, Nanisivik, Sanikiluaq and Resolute Bay."

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of her department's work with respect to the remediation and removal of decommissioned airport buildings in Resolute Bay and Nanisivik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. The Government of Nunavut is presently working on the demolition of old air terminal buildings in Sanikiluaq, Coral Harbour, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Resolute Bay. We had funding proposals for 2017-18, but it was not put into the main estimates. The economic development department will keep working on getting funding for the demolition of the terminal buildings to have them demolished in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for clarifying my question. The current business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation also indicates that one of its priorities for the current 2016-17 fiscal year is to, and I quote, "Complete the agreement between the Department of National Defence and the GN for improvements to the road between Arctic Bay and Nanisivik." Has this agreement been signed, yes or no?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department is presently planning for the road between Arctic Bay and Nanisivik and we've had discussions with the federal government. Nanisivik will be utilized by the federal government, so we are presently negotiating to get funding to repair the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you for including the road to Nanisivik in the plans. I appreciate that. Will the minister commit to providing me with a copy of the agreement between the Department of National Defence and the Government of Nunavut for improvements to the road between Arctic Bay and Nanisivik? Can she table the documents here in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. Once the agreement is in place, I can inform the hamlet and you. If you need it, it will be a Government of Nunavut and federal government project. I don't mind

providing you with copies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 432 – 4(3): Controlling Tobacco Use in Nunavut**

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

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's *Tobacco Control Act* was passed in 2004. The legislation has two primary purposes: to promote and protect the health of all Nunavummiut by ensuring that public places and workplaces are smoke-free and to reduce access to tobacco products, especially to youth.

The legislation allows the ministers to appoint inspectors for the purposes of the Act. Can the minister state whether any persons or class of persons have been appointed as tobacco inspectors under the *Tobacco Control Act* and clearly explain who is currently enforcing the Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. Tobacco rates and use across Nunavut are higher than most other jurisdictions in the country, so it's a very important initiative.

Currently we're doing a tobacco education and compliance program specifically targeting to youth. Currently we have environmental health officers who are doing inspections of retailers. There have been a lot of consultations to identify different work and programs that can reduce smoking for all Nunavummiut, but especially targeting retailers and education programs for youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, sections 13 and 14 of the *Tobacco Control Act* specifically prohibit smoking within a specified radius near workplaces, public places, and schools. Section 17 establishes the fines and penalties for contravening the Act.

None of the *Tobacco Control Act* annual reports tabled to date indicate whether any contraventions of the Act have ever been filed or if any fines have ever been levied. Can the minister clarify whether any contraventions of the *Tobacco Control Act*, specifically with respect to smoking within a prescribed radius, have ever been recorded and if any fines have ever been levied? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. In addition to my response to his question, I would just like to inform the member that we will be tabling the annual report for the *Tobacco*



*Control Act* during this sitting. I want to thank the member for that reminder.

With regard to specified spaces of smoking limits, three metres is the norm, except at public schools, which are 15 metres. In addition, as recently as this June, we have taken a step at the Qikiqtani General Hospital here in Iqaluit to even further restrict smoking to two specified areas to create smoke-free grounds around entrances. To my knowledge, there have currently been no fines levied for smoking within those parameters.

There are a number of different ways that people can go about to make complaints. If it's a public building, you can draw your concerns to the department responsible for that building itself and also through the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, the *Nunavut Tobacco Reduction Framework for Action, Tobacco Has No Place Here*, it's titled, *Tuvvaakiqariaqanngilaq*, was tabled about five years ago and expires this year.

In planning for the government's next tobacco reduction action plan, will the minister consider amending the *Tobacco Control Act* to extend the smoking prohibition area beyond the current three-metre radius from the doorways of workplaces and public places and to also include the areas under building air

intake vents as prohibited areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing that issue to my attention as well. Again, in the business plan for the Department of Health there is currently no immediate plan to make amendments to the *Tobacco Control Act*. We do, however, run a number of programs with our smoking cessation and tobacco reduction campaigns. We are looking to have more measurables to be able to see the impact that those programs are doing. We're bringing in new software, upcoming, to be able to track usage and make more community-specific programs.

I appreciate the member's suggestions and at any time members can make suggestions to the department on amending legislation to the *Tobacco Control Act*. I would look forward to hearing and discussing with the member some more details on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 433 – 4(3): Full-time Dentist for Rankin Inlet**

**Mr. Alexander Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to residents of Rankin Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, the former Minister of Health assured this House that a full-time dentist was supposed to come to Rankin Inlet, but to date the community is still receiving dental services from a visiting dentist.

Can the minister clearly explain why it is proving so difficult to hire a full-time dentist for the community of Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak to what former ministers have stated. What I can say is that in a perfect world we would have full-time dental services in as many communities as possible. There are a number of different factors that pose challenges to the Department of Health to provide full-time dentistry.

The full-time dentists that do work in the territory are here under their own clinics where we pay for service, but we don't provide full-time dentistry services, as far as I'm aware, anywhere. Even here in Iqaluit there are two dental offices that I am familiar with and they're both private clinics run by dentists.

Maybe if the member wished to lobby other dental associations to maybe try to attract a dentist to their community, I'm sure we would utilize the services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Trying to utilize this full-time dentist, I would presume that would be the responsibility of the health department, not of me as MLA.

Mr. Speaker, with the high rate of tooth decay, especially in our younger population, I am certain that there would be plenty of work for a dentist to do full-time work in Rankin Inlet. Can the minister clearly describe what steps are being taken to recruit, hire, and retain a full-time dentist in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I appreciate where the member is going on this topic, especially when we're talking about children's oral health. It is a very high priority to me personally. Since I took over this portfolio, I've had numerous discussions with my health officials on how we can address the waiting times that our youth have to take, especially for oral surgery.

With regard to active recruitment for a dentist for Rankin Inlet specifically, I can't provide the member with any updates at this time. It's something I can follow up with my health officials. Again, we use contracted services with very strict visiting days that they have to adhere to.

Would I like to supplement or would I like to accelerate or increase the amounts

of visits, especially to Rankin Inlet and to other communities? Absolutely and it's something I have been speaking with my officials at Health to see how we can address it, again especially for youth and children's oral health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Getting a full-time dentist for Rankin Inlet is taking far too long, far too much time. The dental health of our children is suffering. Can the minister tell the House when the community of Rankin Inlet will have a full-time dentist? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I can't give the member a timeline. There are a number of different factors. I can go back to my officials and clarify maybe some of the previous comments that were made and discuss further with the member. At this time I'm unable to provide a timeline of when or even if Rankin Inlet will get a full-time dentist. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 434 – 4(3): Establishment of an Independent Public Service Commission**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you and good afternoon. (interpretation

ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

As the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly gave careful consideration during our recent spring sitting to a number of issues and items related to the management of the public service, including the most recently tabled public service annual report.

At the end of our deliberations, a motion was passed which recommended that the Government of Nunavut “reintegrate its human resources functions and responsibilities into a single, independent public service commission.”

Can the minister update the House today on the status of the government's implementation of this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, as Ms. Angnakak and most members know, it is very busy during the summer with people working hard on various things. I can assure Ms. Angnakak that my staff is hard at work on reviewing the public service commission concept. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought maybe the third time... . What's that saying? The third time's the charm. Maybe I would get a

really good response saying, “Yes, we’re working really hard and we’re going to be able to table it during this sitting,” but I shall go on to my next question.

One of the major issues that have emerged with respect to the elimination of the government’s standalone Department of Human Resources is the separation of its core functions between two different departments. These include training, Inuit employment initiatives, employee relations, and recruitment.

The motion that was passed during our spring sitting noted that the “reintegration of these functions and responsibilities” into a single entity would “enhance the coordination and cohesiveness of the government’s management of human resources.” This is a reasonable and logical position, Mr. Speaker.

My question, I guess, is this: why does the government believe that reintegrating these functions under one roof would be the wrong thing to do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I spent four days in the witness chair in the summer answering questions from all MLAs and I thought they were very good answers. We reviewed the human resources department going all the way back to 1999 or even earlier. Mr. Speaker, there were countless reports or I shouldn’t say countless, but there were countless complaints about HR over those years. The Office of the Auditor General made observations and

recommendations. The Berger report made observations and a number of other people made observations and recommendations.

We felt at the time, and Ms. Angnakak was here, that it was time to look at strengthening HR and bring it into Finance where we could work on making significant improvements. I spent 20 minutes speaking to Ms. Angnakak’s motion, explaining all the improvements that have been made in HR in a little over three years; timelier reporting of data, strengthening adherence to the priority policy, fact-finding, and a whole range of areas.

I’m not sure where Ms. Angnakak is getting her information from, but I can assure the listening public, the MLAs, and everybody else that there has been significant progress in improving the human resources side; recruiting and staffing, training and development, and Inuit employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just because somebody talks for 20 minutes doesn’t mean that we are in agreement with what is being said.

In fact I think the elimination of the Department of Human Resources and the dispersal of its functions to the departments of EIA and Finance came into effect on April 1, 2013. As of March 31, 2013 the government’s overall vacancy rate stood at 23 percent, with 973 positions being vacant. According to the government’s most recent quarterly

employment report, the overall vacancy rate has actually increased by 5 percent since that time and currently stands at 28 percent, with 1,314 positions being vacant.

In light of this trend, does the government still believe that the decision to separate its human resources functions into different departments has helped its recruitment and staffing efforts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, when we went through the whole process back in the Third Assembly, it was a three-year process. I stood up in this House to announce the budget. The budget addresses very clearly articulate what we are planning to do. I met with Full Caucus. We had debates in this House. We didn't hide anything, Mr. Speaker. We spoke openly and candidly about the issues in HR and what we thought should occur to strengthen it.

Ms. Angnakak has her opinion about HR; we all have our own opinions. That's what makes human resources a very interesting field. I think I said years ago in response to one of her questions that you can go to universities, colleges, study for a degree, and get Ph.Ds in organizational behaviour. I have studied organizational behaviour at university. I have worked with HR. I have been a union president. I have been a shop steward. I have been an independent chairman. Dealing with people is a very difficult area.

We are simply strengthening the processes to ensure that everybody who

applies for jobs or works for the government is treated fair and square. If they're employed, we have vast number of policies and directives that protect employees. We have the union that protects employees. We have the ethics officer, which we announced a few years ago, who just tabled his report last summer. We're doing all kinds of things to improve human resources.

Again, Ms. Angnakak has her opinion. That's her right. I can assure her that the government takes human resources [seriously] and we treat our GN employees as valued employees. They're doing a great job for us out there and I hope that will continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Whale Cove, Mr. Tony Akoak.

#### **Question 435 – 4(3): Recreational Infrastructure**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues, ministers, Nunavummiut, the community of Gjoa Heaven, and to my family, if they're watching.

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

As the minister will recall, he participated in an announcement that was made on February 29, 2016 concerning the Small Communities Fund. This announcement indicated that \$19,918,400 in federal and territorial funding would be made available for upgrading community arenas.

Can the minister indicate which proposals have been approved to date for assistance and can he clarify the maximum amount that can be provided to any single project under this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it was part of the announcement and I'm grateful for any monies that we would get from the federal government.

As for the question of which arenas, there are ten arenas left in Nunavut that don't have concrete on them so that we can get more usage out of them other than just skating on. One of the reasons I haven't said which communities will be getting them first is there's a set amount of money and we don't have what exactly has to be done and how much it will cost on each arena. The evaluation process will be done to make sure that the arenas need it the most will be prioritized and we haven't finalized a list yet.

Like I stated earlier, the reason is because we don't know the scope of work that has to be done yet on each arena. The bulk of this will be used to extend the arena usage so that it can be used longer, but if there are any safety concerns, then that issue would have to be dealt with first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm how much funding under this initiative remains available and can he clarify the process by which municipalities can apply for funding assistance in the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the figures in front of me right now as to the amount that is available. None of the amount that is available has been spent yet. We're still working on that and the application process will be through my department. I believe there's no actual application form right now and we're working on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The February announcement also indicated that \$4.2 million would be allocated to undertake major repairs to Cambridge Bay's arena. The government's current 2017-18 capital estimates indicate that Rankin Inlet's new arena will cost approximately \$25 million.

Mr. Speaker, the Municipality of Gjoa Haven is working on a proposal for a new community arena. Can the minister clarify what criteria his department uses to determine whether a community needs minor repairs to its arena, major repairs to its arena, or a new arena altogether? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process in which an arena is looked at, whether it's minor, major, or replacement, would have to do with the cost. If the cost is not so big, then it's a minor upgrade. If the costs are substantially higher, then it's a major renovation. If it's just not practically and financially feasible to renovate to get it to the standards you want, then it would be replaced.

I don't have the exact guidelines in front of me as to how the process goes. Just using common sense, if \$25 million will buy you a new arena and it is going to cost \$20 million to renovate the old one, then obviously you would put in for a new one because the money would be more well spent.

As to how a community decides when they get an arena, the process starts at the hamlet level or the community level first. The community, through their hamlet, would put it in their integrated community sustainability plan. If a new arena is priority over absolutely everything else that the hamlet wants or needs, then that would be looked at. When this list of infrastructure needs is brought forward from a community, then there is ranking in terms of what gets approved. Safety is always high on the list and aesthetics is lower on the list.

If any community needs a new arena, then they should work with their hamlets and then we will see what we can do from there. If it's a hamlet priority, it will be looked at, but if something is more needed and safety is a factor, then

that would trump an arena. In the process, the community will put in their integrated community sustainability plan what that community wants as their infrastructure priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 436 – 4(3): Bedbug Infestation at Sylvia Grinnell Building**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Health.

From what I understand, there has been an infestation of bedbugs in one of the buildings in my riding and in the office building, Grinnell Place, and there are adjoining apartment units for my constituents. The first report was on October 6. There were attempts to clean it up and remove the bedbugs from October 7 to 11. They reopened it on October 11 just to discover more bedbugs and it has been shut down and they're supposed to be open today.

Can the minister explain what happened and if they have taken the proper steps to remove this infestation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have offices in that building, so it's a concern for our staff. To make sure that they feel comfortable

at work, there have been a number of steps that Community and Government Services has been providing to the facility to exterminate the issue.

That being said, they are a resilient insect and I know that Community and Government Services is doing everything possible with the building owner to make sure that the issue is resolved as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The latest information I have is that the offices would be open today. I'm hopeful that's occurring and that the infestation has been removed from the facility and the building. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health, Mr. Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. It's obviously a concern to us and I know that Community and Government Services, with the building owner, has been working very diligently and aggressively to eliminate this problem. I am awaiting an update, as I'm sure the Minister of Community and Government Services is, on the status of reopening the office. As soon as I know anything, I'll let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 437 – 4(3): Patient Relations Office**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Minister of Health and his staff for the good work of the patient relations office in helping to address and resolve patient issues.

Can the minister provide an update on the operations of the Office of Patient Relations and how it has been fulfilling its mandate? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the accolades of the Division of Patient Relations at the Department of Health. There have been some capacity challenges with filling some of the positions, but I know that people who are in there are working very hard. I know, personally through some of the members here, I send them a lot of work and they have always been very diligent in the responses. I would just like to take this time to publicly thank them for the work that they do.

That being said, can we do more? Yes. Like I had mentioned, we do have some challenges filling a couple of positions and working very hard myself, even personally, to try to attract Inuktitut-speaking in addition to the ability to provide French services as well.



The Office of Patient Relations deals with a number of different avenues in health care provision and they have a very diverse responsibility across the department. Like I had stated earlier, they work very hard. As I'm sure most members here can attest, they're doing a very good job of what they do.

I look forward to getting those other positions. There are two vacant positions that I'm aware of right now and I'm looking very much forward to getting those positions filled in the very near term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, the Office of Patient Relations is a very good place to direct people if they have complaints or concerns regarding their health care. However, it has been mentioned to me that some individuals are finding it is sometimes difficult to get a response or discussion in Inuktitut.

Can the minister confirm whether or not this office will be increasing the number of Inuit language speaking staff? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. I am certain that the Office of Patient Relations is very busy and it serves an important function. Will the minister commit to reviewing the workload and capacity at this office in the near future? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly do thank the member for bringing up that question. Like I had mentioned earlier, we have had some challenges filling some of the positions. My goal first of all is to make sure that it is running at full capacity with the PYs that that division is provided. The very moment that that happens, we will be monitoring the activity to make sure that the staff there are given the resources to be able to do their job adequately in assisting the department in addressing client concerns.

Until I or the department know that there is an issue, it's difficult for us to address it. The patient relations office is one of the first points of contact that patients and health care recipients have with the Department of Health. It's a very good avenue for me to learn about what some of the issues that people are experiencing and to resolve them to the best of my ability and the department's ability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 438 – 4(3): Foster Parents**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, last week the minister celebrated Foster Parent Week and we join him in acknowledging the important role that foster parents play in our society.

As we are all aware, in some cases, for the safety and well-being of a child, a decision is made to apprehend a child from a home and place them with foster parents.

Let me first ask the minister: can he confirm that when a child is apprehended, every attempt is made to place them with an appropriate foster home, preferably in the same community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. We follow the *Child and Family Services Act* and its regulations, which require us to involve parents in deciding what actions to take. We also are required to involve foster parents whenever children under their care are to be moved out to ensure that their needs come first. I can say that at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has come to my attention that on occasion social workers themselves have fostered children who have been apprehended. Can the minister clearly explain how a social worker, who plays a professional role in the apprehension of children, can also be a foster parent to a child who has been taken into care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the member's question because I believe he's talking about a staff member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is family services legislation and you are very familiar with what it says on the process that is followed when a child is apprehended from their home. You stated that there is legislation governing that. However, I would like to ask if you consult the legislation regarding foster parents and interview them when a child is being referred to them to ensure they would be in a proper place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different scenarios when children are involved in the child welfare process.

What I can say here is that there are two different scenarios where children need to be transferred to the state and the child can be apprehended. The child welfare system has been running for many years.

The other category revolves around agency apprehension of children, whether it is the social worker or RCMP that does the apprehension. Whenever a situation arises in the home where apprehension is required, without the proper signed documentation, there are pieces of legislation that pertain to child welfare or even to be placed in a foster home.

The process plays out differently, and I don't quite understand which part the member is asking about. Perhaps in an emergency where a child is in a dangerous situation due to the parents' lack of care or other reasons, the legislation lays out what process is to be followed.

Nunavut's legislation is designed to protect our children. For that reason, when a child is taken without the required paperwork needing parental signatures, the agents can apprehend the child and place them in a foster home if they can find one.

When a child is under the care of the state, there are a number of hours and I believe it is listed at 72 hours, if it is required. The child can also be released the next day to the parents before the end of the 72 hours, but if the case is complex, then that does not apply.

The question should be specific to the process the member wishes to ask about, so I am trying to answer both scenarios,

with a simpler process and a more onerous process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 439 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou Hunting Quotas**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, most of us know that the Baffin region has a caribou quota limitation standing at 250 tags for the region. Further, we are all aware that when the season was ending this summer, some particular communities faced travel issues when ice started forming.

I would like to ask what the status of the caribou tag quota is today. How many of the 250 tags are filled? That will be my first question to the Minister of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. At this time in the Baffin region as of October 14, Baffin residents have harvested 107 caribou. Compared to last year to date, they harvested 50 more caribou than the previous year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the figures the minister elaborated on, one of the requirements is that hunters harvest male caribou only. Are all the caribou harvested to date males? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, not all harvested caribou are males, as some were cows that were harvested. The hunters who harvested the non-males are currently being investigated by the conservation officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He referenced the number of caribou harvested. When can we expect the numbers to rollover or will the numbers remain the same until it is all harvested? Will another quota be set for the upcoming year or will the hunters have to first harvest all the caribou up the 250 figure? Is there no way to add to the quota prior to the total filling of the current 250 tag quota? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Baffin region has an overall quota totalling 250 caribou a year, which lasts throughout the winter season. However, with regard to the 250 tags, the figure is set on July 1 and runs to June 30 of the following year.

To date 107 caribou have been harvested from July 1 and the quota will remain in effect until June 30, unless the tags are completely used up prior to the date and that is when the caribou season would end.

The Baffin region has 250 tags. If the hunters harvest 250 caribou, then the season would end in the Baffin region, with the new quota set to renew on July 1 of the next summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 440 – 4(3): Management of Medical Clients**

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

Mr. Speaker, many people go on medical travel for treatment or appointments. In our region, this is travel to Winnipeg. Mr. Speaker, when patients have travelled to Winnipeg, after their medical treatment as they start to heal, they are usually sent home. In some cases the patient has to travel home in a single day.

In that situation, no matter which resident of the Kivalliq region who lives

outside of Rankin Inlet, they still have to wait for their connection out of Rankin Inlet. This is particularly true for patients going home to Coral Harbour and Nauyasat, as they have to wait quite a while for a connecting flight. Many passengers are especially tired when they arrive.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister can task his officials to look into a waiting area for patients, in particular our elders or patients with disabilities, so they can rest while waiting for their connecting flight to their home when the stopover is longer than a day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. There are different opinions on some of the feedback I've gotten. Some people do want to get home as soon as possible to their family.

That being said, I do understand the issue the member is bringing forward, especially if there are flight delays or something of that nature. I believe I had a question about that earlier last week where, if a flight is delayed by two hours or more, we can look at getting temporary hotel accommodations for patients that are travelling so that they've got somewhere to rest.

Currently there is not a boarding home in Rankin Inlet to be able to meet outlying communities from that region. That being said, as recently as a couple of weeks ago, I was at the KIA meeting in Rankin Inlet and this topic came up

with the Kivalliq Inuit Association. I believe that there is some desire on their part to look at partnerships for maybe a boarding home in Rankin Inlet.

The department has done an analysis and there is a need, depending upon flight schedules, where it may warrant people overnighing before they go back home. Again, it depends on the flight scheduling and again, also a lot of people do want to go home the same day. I understand it's tiring, but they want to get home to their families as soon as they possibly can in a lot of circumstances. I'll leave it at that for now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know for a fact that you can get homesick, especially when travelling from a hospital. This is particularly true with our elders and patients with low stamina. Some patients want to rest up, not all patients, but the majority wish to go home.

I am trying to ask about patients who tire easily or patients who wish to rest up. When patients wish to sleepover in Rankin Inlet prior to travelling home, does the department accommodate those requests? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anytime anybody is travelling under medical travel, they can make requests or appeal decisions to the medical travel coordinators or through the patient relations office. If there's a

legitimate reason and an identified need, it may be something that we can explore, but again, our priority is to get people back home as fast and efficiently as possible. The member may want to speak to some of his constituents or if there's an identified need, maybe it's something we could look into it.

Medical travel is almost a quarter of the Department of Health's budget, which is the largest budget in the Government of Nunavut. We're looking at ways to streamline the process to make medical travel as comfortable as possible for people. At the end of day I'm also accountable to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and to all Nunavummiut on the budget allocations that the Department of Health expends. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People have approached me with experience in that situation and they wanted me to look into this issue. As per my earlier statement, some patients prefer to rest up if they are exhausted, as some patients reach that stage by the time they arrive home.

With that being the case, can the minister concur with me on the need for a review of this request so that patients can book it from Winnipeg if they choose to do so? It would allow them more leeway in reaching their home community.

I believe every patient has to be returned home after their appointments, but I

wonder if he can commit to reviewing this issue to allow patients to sleepover if needed in cases of patient exhaustion or the need to rest up prior to going home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hikes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his concern and I understand his concern for his constituents, especially elders who are travelling. It's something I'll have the department look into the feasibility and respond to the member in writing. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

#### **Motion 033 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, pursuant to Rule 39(7), seconded by Member for Baker Lake, that question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried and 30 minutes have been added. Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

#### **Question 441 – 4(3): Update on RV Nuliajuk Research Data**

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to ask questions to the Minister of Environment.

Last week the minister, in his statement, outlined some of the work being done by Nunavut's research vessel this year. He talked about the vessel conducting "bottom mapping activities and water sample collection. In both Wager Bay and Chesterfield Inlet the biological life of the seafloor was sampled through collection and videotaping," and also sediment cores were collected in both areas.

Mr. Speaker, the research vessel has been in operation for quite a few years now and it's finally nice to see it moving away from the Qikiqtaaluk region into other regions of Nunavut.

Can the minister explain what happens with all the data once it's collected by the research vessel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That research vessel, the Nuliajuk, is used by many different researchers and scientists and it is their data, whoever is doing the research. Some of it is done by DFO, some by different organizations, and some by our department. It depends on who is doing the research. The research data is owned by the researcher. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the research vessel has been collecting data now for many years. Some of this data may be of

interest to other Members of the Assembly. Will the minister commit to tabling annual reports on the research vessel's activities in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the data is owned by the researchers and it is their data and they can do what they want with it. I can't table it.

Going back, it has been doing research for a long time. A lot of the research that is done is for baseline data so that they will know if there are any changes happening due to environmental conditions, shipping conditions, pollution, climate change, and all that. A lot of this data is used as baseline data so that 20 years from now they will know what the bottom once looked like, what animals lived there and what organisms lived at the bottom there.

I can't table the data here, but it's useful data that will be used by Nunavummiut in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the fact that they can't table data that's collected for other entities, but as he stated, some of the data collected was for our own government's use. Maybe he can update us from time to time on that kind of information.

When the research vessel came into service, the intention was to do research

throughout Nunavut. Can the minister update us today on what activities the research vessel will undertake in the coming years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They had a five-year research plan and we're at the end of that. They have to come up with a new plan for this vessel now.

Normally they have a meeting in January/February. The people who want to use the boat to do research and the Department of Environment decide on what research will be done on this vessel. It's not ice rated, so it can only work where there is no ice and when there's no ice. The amount of use that it gets is so that it takes advantage of the full season because there are more researchers that want to use the boat than there is time available to use it.

As for where it can do its research, when it was built, it was not built as an ice-class vessel. Therefore it can only operate where there is no ice, so that limits it to where it can go. As of right now I can't tell the member what research will be done next year. That will be decided this coming winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut

Housing Corporation.

**Speaker:** I'll go on to the next member. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

#### **Question 442 – 4(3): Food Security**

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

Mr. Speaker, the Community Harvesting Infrastructure Fund of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Country Food Distribution Program provides funding to municipalities and/or hunters and trappers organizations for such activities as the repair, upgrade, design, purchase, and installation of community freezers. Under this program, the department reviews applications that are submitted from community-based entities.

I would like to ask the minister if he can indicate approximately how many communities in Nunavut have been able to acquire new community freezers since this program was introduced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking about that matter. In your question, you mentioned more than one funding program.



For the (interpretation ends) Country Food Distribution Program, (interpretation) the purpose of the fund is specifically for country food or for the construction of community freezers. I can't state exactly how many communities have built freezers, as the funds are also used for country foods.

As an example, if you recall a meeting in Cape Dorset this summer, the community expended up to \$30,000 under the country food program. In Sanikiluaq the funding was used to purchase a community freezer.

However, I have not compiled the data on the communities' usage of this fund and for what purpose. The funding is still available within our current fiscal year and this program is ongoing with funding available past this current fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, the department's budget for the Country Food Distribution Program for the 2016-17 fiscal year is \$1,576,000.

Can the minister confirm that information regarding how municipalities and HTOs can apply for assistance under the Country Food Distribution Program is provided directly to municipal offices and HTO offices on an annual basis by her department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and

Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Yes, the amount listed was approved by the members totalling \$1,576,000. Out of these funds about \$292,000 was spent on staff responsible for this program. The staff member can be approached either by municipal staff or the HTO managers and if they wish to get further clarification, they can approach our offices to request the information.

With respect to the agreement, all communities are earmarked \$30,000 as their limit. If people wish to get the particulars on how to access this funding for country food distribution or community freezer funding, they can approach our department for that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, last month the Nunavut Food Security Coalition was scheduled to hold its annual meeting in Igloolik. The coalition, which receives funding from the Department of Family Services, also provides grants and contributions for community food security initiatives.

Can the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation describe how she works with the Minister of Family Services to ensure that there is no duplication or overlap between the different programs that exist

to support food security in Nunavut?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. I also thank the member. The  
departments collaborated on this matter  
last year, with my officials as well as  
(interpretation ends) Family Services  
(interpretation) officials. The subject we  
just broached was discussed with respect  
to the funding requests either for country  
food distribution or community freezer  
funding.

The working group travelled to various  
communities to come up with an  
interdepartmental approach to accessing  
country foods or other programs  
available under economic development  
and better ways to raise revenues related  
to providing country food separate from  
income support. This was discussed in  
that forum, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 443 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. My questions are for the  
Minister responsible for the Nunavut  
Housing Corporation.

As the minister is aware, the current  
public housing rent scale came into  
effect in the fall of 2013, which was  
three years ago. Under the current public  
housing rent scale, tenants at the lowest

end of the income scale pay a minimum  
rent of \$60 per month. Tenants at the  
highest end of the income scale pay the  
maximum rent.

According to the Nunavut Housing  
Corporation's *Rent Scale Procedures  
Manual*, "the maximum rent charged for  
a public housing unit is the rent ceiling.  
Rent ceilings are based on the  
Government of Nunavut's staff housing  
rents" and they "apply for all Nunavut  
communities."

I believe that it is important for us  
MLAs and ministers to be aware of how  
the decisions that we make in this  
Legislative Assembly impact ordinary  
people.

Can the minister tell us what the current  
rent ceiling is for a two-bedroom public  
housing unit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.  
What my colleague alluded to, yes, at  
that time around 2014 the rent scale for  
public housing was started with a new  
rent scale category and the rent increases  
on the scale were highlighted on how it  
would move up to each level.

With respect to his actual question, I  
don't have the information on the two-  
bedroom unit rental price. If it were  
within the department records, then I can  
have it printed and made available to my  
colleague. I have not seen any  
information on the two-bedroom  
apartment rent amounts. I would have to  
first look into that prior to presenting the

information to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two-bedroom rent ceiling is a little over \$1,400 a month.

As a former member of Baker Lake's local housing association's board of directors, I do recognize and appreciate the challenge in developing a public housing rent scale that is fair and affordable and which does not act as a disincentive to getting a job. I also recognize and appreciate that high income individuals can and should pay more than low income individuals.

Last week the minister tabled the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new *Blueprint for Action on Housing*, which I have now begun to review with care. One of NHC's proposed actions is to, and I quote, "...review best practices related to various models of subsidized housing as alternatives to rent geared to income" and to "...review possible development of a fixed-rent subsidized housing model targeting high-income public housing tenants, particularly those currently paying maximum rent in public housing."

Can the minister describe the kinds of alternate approaches that are under consideration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. I can give a short answer to his other question. He touched a little bit on the plans that we have. The blueprint for action contains many things. We're going to be doing things about the contents of that plan because it's a 20-year plan and we are not the only government that is responsible for it. We have to rely on NTI and other organizations as well to work on that. To put it shortly, that blueprint has many contents in it and his question is mentioned in the blueprint for action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's new *Blueprint for Action on Housing* also indicates that it will "...explore avenues to support the creation of more collective ownership options, such as cooperative housing and community land trusts." As the minister will recall, a plebiscite on the sale of municipal lands was held earlier this year. Can the minister explain how "community land trusts" would work in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the blueprint for action contains many things and there are many departments involved with it along with our department. The land issue is also an

issue, but I can't provide a definitive answer at this time as I don't have the details. However, to use this example, the CGS department or even the municipalities have to be involved from the outset to resolve the land issue with our public units, including other uses for our lands. I can't respond as I don't have the details here. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 444 – 4(3): Food Security**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible of Family Services, whose department is responsible for the government's Poverty Reduction Division and support to the Nunavut Food Security Coalition.

Earlier this summer the government issued a request for proposals for support in organizing the annual meeting of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, which was scheduled to take place in Igloolik in September. Can the minister indicate when he will be tabling the final report from this meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't release the actual date at this time and I am unsure when this can be tabled, as the report is still undergoing work and further, our Canadian government is involved in the food security discussions. The Nunavut Food Security

Coalition is canvassing the archives for information from past meetings, as well as the report on the consultation tour that was coordinated by the federal government. These reports have to be completed and with this as the reason, I can't say in the House when I would be able to release the final report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing that report.

The government's request for proposals indicated that it was looking to "engage a food supply chain expert" to "develop and provide a presentation on food supply chain management, including information on quota systems, price fixing mechanisms and import tariffs."

As the minister is likely aware, the Province of Manitoba regulates the price of milk through its Milk Prices Review Commission. Can the minister indicate if our government is considering direct regulation of the prices of essential foods? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are also working with them on an intergovernmental level and with other jurisdictions. As per my statement, these organizations are working towards finalizing the various food assistance

programs into a more cohesive program that can provide real benefits.

It is also related to poverty and how best to support low-income families under the food security discussions, as well as to see how to parlay the existing programs under the departments of Health, Economic Development and Transportation, and Environment. They are cross-linking the various funding programs to determine the extent of assistance in Nunavut for food-related benefits.

This is a complex issue to even debate or discuss, as the main reason for the review is to see how best to provide tangible assistance to Nunavummiut who are in most need of lower prices for healthy foods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I got all the answers to my question, but maybe you can read the *Blues* and get back to me.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that reducing poverty in the territory will also reduce food insecurity. One of the minister's statutory responsibilities is to table the government's annual report under the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*. As he will recall, the 2013-14 report was tabled on May 27, 2015 and the 2014-15 and 2015-16 reports are now due. Will he be tabling the outstanding annual reports before the end of our current fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for reminding me of my tabling responsibilities.

Since I became minister, I have looked into those matters. I know that I have to table reports and I will be tabling reports after this. If it's not at the fall session, it will be at the winter session when I will be tabling those reports.

We want to make sure that food is not so impossible to get. The Canadian government had a food mail program in the past that was utilized by many people. It has since been changed in Nunavut. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities passed a resolution in 2007 to change the Food Mail Program. Even though it has been changed today, it has become worse. We see food prices that are a lot higher now.

The stores like the Co-op and Northern did not like the Food Mail Program that ran through the post office. That's when there was a food freight subsidy and the price of food used to be cheaper back then. I just wanted to explain that as part of my initial response.

I agree with the member that I need to table the reports that are late. I would like to inform the member that I have dealt with some of them and I will table them when I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-

Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

**Question 445 – 4(3): Ending Social Promotion in Nunavut Schools**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We have made education a priority during this term, as one of the few.

During the beginning of our mandate, I'll refer to a couple of news articles, one from CBC on November 15, 2013. This is a question to the Premier. When asked if social promotion ends now, the Premier replied, "It has to." This is November 15, 2013.

Another article from *Nunatsiaq News* dated November 26, 2013, Willie Nakoolak, Chair of the Nunavut Coalition of the District Education Authorities, said "the coalition is 'encouraged' that Premier Peter Taptuna has promised to end social promotion."

We are in the final year of our mandate and social promotion is still alive and well. Can the Premier explain when this promise of ending social promotion will be honoured? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. There are many things that we have planned on doing. When we developed our *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate, we did it in conjunction with every MLA and NTI. It took a number of different consultations to get to our *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate.

Of course these issues are tied in with the development of the Special Committee to Review the *Education Act*. Social promotion was in the news for many years and that's one of the things that we want to tackle as a new government to ensure that we have the best available processes to educate our young people of Nunavut.

There are many promises that were made in the past too, not just my promise of 2013, where we're going to end these things that we will continue to try to get done throughout this mandate. I know there are only a few months left in this term. With the help of our ministers that were selected by the House here, we will certainly make the effort to get to that point where, through a renewed and amended *Education Act*, we will hopefully see the differences being made.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, this is not an overnight fix. This has been going on for a long time and we intend to tackle it step by step to ensure that our students get the possible education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The *Education Act* does not deal with social promotion. It's a policy matter for the government to deal with. It was signed off in the dying days of the last government to continue it as an executive order. When will the Premier end social promotion? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of things that we try to adhere by. One of the things that we want to write into the *Education Act* is to end some of these things that are happening.

Mr. Speaker, there are other students that move down south after living up in Nunavut for a number of years who have indicated that the education levels in Nunavut are just as good as what's happening in other jurisdictions, both in languages and in academics.

Mr. Speaker, once we have a good understanding of how the amendments to our *Education Act* are going to be taking place, we will certainly have everybody involved through public consultations to ensure that we get the best available processes and *Education Act* for our children of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Social promotion is a very difficult issue for students. It raises false hopes and it is a nasty surprise for a lot of parents when they discover that their children have been promoted unfairly. I'm still asking the Premier: when will this practice end? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The practice is going to end as soon as we get our *Education Act* in order. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the five-year review has taken place. We installed a special committee to go through the amendments as required, involving many organizations and communities. Once that is in place, we will have a good understanding of what's going to be needed.

Social promotion can be interpreted in many ways, but at the end of the day we want our children to have the best possible education through an amended *Education Act* that is made for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

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

#### **Committee Report 013 – 4(3): Report on the Review of the 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Independent Officers and

\*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 13 – 4(3).

Other Entities on its review of the 2015-16 annual report to the Legislative Assembly of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts was appointed Nunavut's first Information and Privacy Commissioner in 1999.

She was reappointed in February of 2015 for a fourth five-year term of office. I would also like to note for the record that she has served as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories since 1996, when that jurisdiction's legislation originally came into effect.

As an independent officer of the House, the Information and Privacy Commissioner is required to prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly. Since her initial appointment in 1999, the Information and Privacy Commissioner has submitted an annual report each year to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. In each annual report, she has presented a number of recommendations.

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* exists to achieve two broad goals: ensuring that the public has access to government information while preventing the unauthorized use or disclosure of personal information held by government departments and other public bodies. The Information and Privacy Commissioner plays a key role in maintaining this balance.

In addition to providing independent reviews of decisions made by public bodies with respect to requests made under the legislation, the Information

and Privacy Commissioner may offer formal comments on proposed legislation, as well as providing public education on the Act.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2015-16 annual report was backdoor tabled under the provisions of Rule 44(2) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* on July 24, 2016.

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has overarching responsibility for the government's administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The government's 2014-15 annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 3, 2015. However, the government's formal responses to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2013-14 and 2014-15 annual reports have not yet been tabled in the House.

This year's appearances of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and Government of Nunavut officials before the standing committee took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly from September 13 to 14, 2016.

The standing committee's hearings were televised live across the territory and were open to the public and news media to observe from the visitors' gallery. Transcripts from the standing committee's hearings will be available on the Legislative Assembly's website.



The standing committee notes that the government has made progress in a number of areas in recent years.

Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* were passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2012 and came into force in May of 2013. These amendments provide the Information and Privacy Commissioner with clear authority to undertake privacy-related reviews concerning personal information held by public bodies. The amendments also establish a statutory requirement for public bodies to notify her office where a material breach of privacy has occurred with respect to personal information under their control. The Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has recently produced a formal privacy breach and incident policy as well as a privacy management manual.

Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Regulations* were published in the April 2015 edition of Part II of the *Nunavut Gazette*. The most significant amendment is the inclusion of housing associations and housing authorities under the definition of "public body." This means that the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* now applies to local housing organizations.

However, further action is required in other areas, such as the application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to municipalities and district education authorities, and addressing the need for health-specific privacy legislation in the territory.

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

- The public disclosure of information concerning the contracting, procurement and leasing activities of the Government of Nunavut's Crown agencies and territorial corporations. The standing committee's report raises a number of continuing concerns regarding the extent to which information concerning the activities and expenditures of these public bodies is accessible to the public.
- The application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to municipalities. At present Nunavummiut have statutorily prescribed rights under federal and territorial legislation concerning access to information and protection of privacy in relation to the institutions of the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut. However, there is still no legislative framework concerning access to information and protection of privacy with respect to the municipal level of government in Nunavut.
- The development of health-specific privacy legislation and the management of electronic health records. Nunavut remains the only Canadian jurisdiction without health-specific privacy legislation.
- The application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to district education authorities.

- Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in relation to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's discretion to extend the time for requesting a review.
- The ability of parties to appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to the Nunavut Court of Justice.
- The protection of personal information provided to third parties under the *Adoption Act* and the *Child and Family Services Act*.
- The manner in which public bodies facilitate the Information and Privacy Commissioner's work to conduct privacy audits on public bodies.
- The obligations of the Government of Nunavut's departments, Crown agencies, and territorial corporations to report material breaches of privacy.

During her September 13, 2016 appearance before the standing committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that her office had conducted its first privacy audit in Nunavut during the 2015-16 fiscal year. Members look forward to reviewing the Information and Privacy Commissioner's final report on her office's privacy audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner also indicated that she is currently planning to expand her office to include a deputy commissioner to

assist her with her duties as mandated under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The standing committee is of the view that this will help enable the Information and Privacy Commissioner to continue to engage in more training, education and outreach activities, as well as helping to ensure that her office has the resources to meet its requirements in both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

Consequently, a number of recommendations in this year's report of the standing committee are directed to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner itself. These include recommendations concerning the following thematic areas:

- The importance of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner meeting with the Government of Nunavut's Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit (IQK) to exchange perspectives on issues related to access to information and protection of privacy.
- The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's upcoming comprehensive review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- Privacy audits of Government of Nunavut departments, Crown agencies, and territorial corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I would note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report,

pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

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

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** It is agreed.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 20 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 20, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2015-2016*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Bill 21 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 21, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2015-2016*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**An Hon. Member** (interpretation): Question.

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

First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Bill 22 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 23 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-  
2017 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the  
Consumer Protection Act – First  
Reading**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**An Hon. Member** (interpretation): Question.

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

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Social  
Assistance Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South and Whale Cove, that Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Speaker** (interpretation): All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 17. First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Bill 27 – Waste Reduction and  
Diversion Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 27, *Waste Reduction and Diversion Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

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

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Bill 28 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards – First Reading**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Moving on. (interpretation ends) Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 24 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 30 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:59 and Committee resumed at 16:24*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. Welcome to the committee, members. Welcome to the people watching TV and listening to radio.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 24. 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 capital estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 24?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2017-2018 – Economic  
Development and Transportation  
– Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation if she has officials that she would like to appear before the committee. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Yes, I would. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left, Deputy Minister Sherri Rowe, and to my right, John Hawkins, Manager of Iqaluit Airport Operations. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Good afternoon. Before we proceed, I wish to make a statement.

This will be the fourth consecutive day on which the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation will be under consideration.

As Chair, it is my responsibility to balance the desire of the members to ask

questions with the need to ensure that the committee makes progress.

As of the end of Friday's sitting, I had only one member remaining on my list wishing to ask questions on page K-3. All regular members have now had a reasonable amount of time in which to ask questions concerning this page.

Once the final member has finished asking questions, I will exercise my discretion under Rule 77(2) and we will proceed to the next page.

I thank the committee for its attention. I would now recognize Member Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Madam Minister. Welcome. I don't have many questions. I was going to pose my questions, but I think that it would be better as a written question. It would be too cumbersome and it would take too long to respond, so I would prefer to ask those questions in written form.

I want to ask this question. Mr. Chairman, please correct me if my question is out of line. We're talking about capital proposals.

Just recently, Madam Minister, you reported that you attended a meeting of the Arctic Circle Forum in Reykjavik, Iceland. You spoke about different topics at that meeting. Constructing housing units is different in the north since we live in a unique climate. Did you discuss that topic on how we can build facilities for the north so that they can last longer and cost less? Did you discuss those things at that meeting? That's just to get clarification. Thank

you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand the question. What type of construction or infrastructure? Perhaps he can elaborate or clarify his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Clarification, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me clarify. If I reference the circumpolar conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, I imagine discussion was revolving around circumpolar issues, including arctic-specific infrastructure.

Whenever our government ministers have duty travel or meetings, I tend to ask and think to myself the reasoning behind it such that it would provide a benefit for Nunavut, which is why our government is included. I know for a fact that ministers do not just jump on a plane to travel around or to land at a specific community only and I know you have more concrete reasoning for these trips. Nonetheless, I always return to the question of the benefit accruable to Nunavut, especially where ministers attend such meetings or conferences throughout the globe.

As an example, during the (interpretation ends) Arctic Circle Forum (interpretation) where Arctic nations discuss issues, would discussions have been held on, let's say for example, how other Arctic nations construct terminals? Where can we learn from them? Since

they also live in the Arctic regions, another matter would be how they construct roads. Do they pave the roadways or use any other substances? What can we learn from our neighbours in the Arctic to lower the costs of projects for Nunavut?

Does the department conduct research on best arctic practices that can be utilized to alleviate the challenges facing Nunavut, such as exorbitant costs or even long-lived infrastructure? Does your department look to innovative ways other nations deal with their Arctic regions during these meetings? Is that what would have been undertaken? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I'm clear.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as a reminder, Mr. Chairman, I was invited in my role as the Minister responsible for the (interpretation ends) Status of Women Council (interpretation) and that was the reason why I attended that conference. I was invited to that meeting as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

While we were there, I was asked on the side since the news media knew of my ministerial responsibility for economic development and transportation. I agreed to participate in the arctic oil and gas discussions. There were many speakers and they wanted to know the most appropriate approach for the Arctic from the perspective of the government in light of preservation of this area.

I was asked if I had learned of the best practices of the other Arctic nations and which was more appropriate for the territory in the future in order to ensure a safer resource extraction method. It was more of a political discussion, not appropriate for staff members or for the petroleum industry representatives, in light of the possible impacts on our environment and our lands.

It was stated that with more research, work could be undertaken to develop safer practices prior to opening up the arctic waters. This is just an example of one issue, as hundreds of topics were debated at the conference. Due to the low numbers of our group we could not attend them all. There were over 50 countries that were involved at the conference, so 50 nations were represented with over 1,000 delegates.

We were able to discuss tourism, airports, and not just be information presenters about Nunavut, which included the steps required. We also went to listen to various forums and if we weren't directly involved, we listened to debates about Canadian legislation, as other nations can reference them when they are developing their own legislation.

If we weren't involved, we would not be able to find out about developments, such as ship traffic and proposed arctic shipping routes, in the discussions with the countries that have different information. They were discussing arctic issues, for instance, shipping traffic or ships travelling through the Arctic and what are better ways of dealing with ports.

Yes, I started to believe that we have to be involved or we would be left behind and we wouldn't have the opportunity to speak from our own experiences. I'm sure it's understandable we who live in the Arctic don't want to be bypassed in these kinds of discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. I have a short question. You were able to be involved in arctic oil and gas discussions. You were involved as minister. How did Nunavummiut benefit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were able to make comments as there were questions on it. If I say it in English, (interpretation ends) "Rethinking shared interests in arctic oil and gas – can we actually manage more effectively?" (interpretation) That was a question that was posed. I was able to talk about how we have dealt with the issue and who did the exploring.

It's obvious in the future as a result of exploration that investments can be realistically made and therefore be economically viable. We have to keep in mind that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and hunters must be part of how wildlife and their movements are to be considered. This question just cannot be overlooked.

We want oil and gas development, but people in the Arctic pursue a hunting way of life and share a connection to



wildlife. I was able to stress this key point which participants at the conference heard and learned from. There were professional experts on the Arctic who sat with me.

My transportation officials were able to talk to different airlines on the construction of the international airport in Iqaluit. Iqaluit enjoys the status of being an international airport and there's no reason why it couldn't take on more international air traffic.

We were able to discuss a whole range of topics and met with many people, some of whom were very supportive. If we are not involved in meetings such as this, we wouldn't have the opportunity to learn more ourselves as well as to teach others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask about the written statement. It states that your officials attended a lot of discussions. For instance, if you go there for this purpose, how many of you were there and how much money would Nunavut spend to attend such a conference? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if we can respond to that question. I want my deputy minister to respond, if she put something like this together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Rowe.

**Ms. Rowe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were three of us from the Department of Economic Development that attended the Arctic Circle Assembly. There was myself, Mr. John Hawkins, who looks after the airport side of things, and also our director of tourism.

During the course of the conference we were able to have meetings with Icelandair to discuss issues about how to maybe attract international flights to Nunavut, not just to Iqaluit. We also spoke about the connection with Greenland. We were able to get some really good ideas from those airlines and also the ability to get data that they are aware of on how you can purchase that we were not aware of here.

With tourism, we met with Scotland, Quebec, Iceland, and Greenland about establishing or trying to establish some tours of either culture or industries or tourism between these countries to try to attract more visitors to Nunavut. Iceland is very good at marketing and selling what is produced in Iceland. It was a very good learning opportunity to see how they can use everyday things that are available and turn them into beautiful art and then sell them. The amount of tourists they have there is amazing and also the number of people flying into Iceland, which is a big hub.

As for the dollar amount, we have only been back about two weeks, but I could get some information on the dollar amount and provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once you get the figures, I would like to get them through you as Chairman.

With respect to her comment, as I stated earlier, when our ministers or government officials travel, especially outside of Canada, I presume it's only because it will benefit Nunavut. You stated that you were able to have discussions with different airlines about tourism.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can ask a short question and get a response. You stated earlier that you were told good ideas. Can you use an example of what good ideas you heard? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my deputy minister talked about it, I'll have Ms. Rowe respond. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Rowe.

**Ms. Rowe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some concrete items that have come out of our meeting in Iceland are on the tourism cultural industry side.

Right now we have an art exhibit called the Floe Edge, which is currently being displayed at Canada House in London, and it's promoting the works of 18 artists. While we were at the Arctic Circle, we were able to make connections with Scotland and also with Ireland. What we're hoping to do now is

move that exhibit onto those countries to expose these Inuit artists.

With the airlines, again, we learnt valuable information that we were not aware of on how you can track where a flight starts from, where they stop, and where their final destination is. You can actually purchase that data and that was something we weren't aware of. Mr. Hawkins can tell you more airline-detailed information.

This conference gave us the ability to meet with people that we would not generally meet with and the ability to meet with the ambassadors to Canada who now, after talking with us, are now also promoting our arts and tourism in the countries they are present in to hopefully attract more tourism to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask you first of all if we are still on page K-3. Can I ask a question about something on page K-4?

**Chairman:** We haven't approved K-3 yet. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any more questions about K-3, so I approve it. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$59,332,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go to page K-4. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, there was something written and it was explained properly on that sheet, but that was a while ago and I can't find it right away.

I want clarification on K-4. It is written on K-4 that there are equipment parking shelters for Arctic Bay and Igloolik. I just want a reminder of what sort of equipment that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's for airport equipment. Are you just asking about Arctic Bay or for all of it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): My apologies, Mr. Chairman, if I wasn't clear enough. In our information here on K-4 it has the Arctic Bay Equipment Parking Shelter and right below that is the Igloolik Equipment Parking Shelter. I'm asking what those are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's an equipment parking shelter for mobile equipment at the airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. It would be good if you can respond to me right away and, if not, I can wait for the response. Arctic Bay and Igloolik will be getting an equipment parking shelter. Do the other communities have that already or is this program just starting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our airport manager is here with us, so I would like Mr. Hawkins to respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hawkins.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are several communities that do not have equipment shelters or parking garages for the airport equipment. Some of them are stored in hamlet facilities still. About seven or eight years ago we started putting initiatives together to make sure that the airports themselves... Some of them had their own equipment parking shelters. Some of the contracts are no longer with the municipalities and felt it was best to have a place to protect the equipment actually owned by the airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. Mr. Chairman, I have no more questions. I approve K-4.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members approved K-3. We will now go to page K-5. Economic Development and

Transportation. Economic Development. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2 million. The detail of expenditures of the request is on K-6. Any questions? Thank you. Economic Development Transportation. Economic Development. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2 million. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go to page K-2. Department Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$61,332,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Ell-Kanayuk, do you have closing comments? Minister Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my officials for their preparations and being able to provide me with responses forthwith.

Mr. Chairman, as I stated previously, I was going to table the photographs of the jet bridge that will help disabled people board the planes, so I will provide them to you through the Chairman right now.

I would like to thank my colleagues for all the good questions they had. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Ell-Kanayuk. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the table.

**Bill 24 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak): Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Savikataaq: do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Does the committee to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Savikataaq, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Lori Kimball. She is the DM of Community and Government Services. To my left is Mr. Darren Flynn. He's the ADM for Community Services with CG&S. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Please proceed with your opening comments, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another capital planning

cycle is underway, and I am pleased to meet with you and update the Committee of the Whole on the 2018-2022 five-year capital plan and in particular the 2017-18 Capital Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's capital needs are a real and present challenge for the Government of Nunavut. The infrastructure deficit facing our territory requires an increasing amount of collaboration among GN departments and this is going to require a much closer relationship with the federal government to overcome. I am pleased to report progress on both of these fronts.

Work is starting to enhance the GN's approach for determining the capital needs of our communities. The intent is to ensure a more robust connection between the government and the communities on all capital needs. I will be sure to update the committee on progress on this front going forward.

Mr. Chairman, I am encouraged by what seems to be a renewed commitment from the federal government to engage on meaningful solutions for Nunavut's infrastructure challenges. For example, on September 6 I signed the new Clean Water and Wastewater Fund Agreement, which will provide \$51 million between 2016 and 2019 to critical safe water and wastewater projects in Nunavut.

Additionally, we continue to work with Canada to implement projects under the New Building Canada Fund, also known as the NBCF. This fund will provide \$319 million of federal funding from 2014 to 2024. This is in addition to the \$78 million in gas tax funding we will

receive from the federal government between 2014 and 2019.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of CG&S capital plan includes 12 projects, nine of which are GN-funded and the remaining three are cost shared under an existing agreement with the federal government. Combined, these 12 projects is a total of \$41.45 million. The nine GN-funded projects are:

- Two major Petroleum Product Division (PPD) items:
  - Bulk fuel storage capacity increase in Gjoa Haven for \$5.2 million;
  - As well as \$3.25 million for upgrades to fuel tanks to meet code compliance issues;
- \$3.4 million for the annual capital contribution agreement with the City of Iqaluit;
- \$5.5 million for the new hamlet office in Kugaaruk;
- Upgrades to the GN's communication technology infrastructure for \$2 million as part of the department's ongoing efforts to modernize the government's entire IT structure;
- \$12 million towards a new arena in Rankin Inlet;
- \$500,000 for the purchase of one fire truck for Cape Dorset, as per the CGS fire truck replacement schedule;
- \$1 million for preplanning studies for various capital projects; and finally,

- \$5 million for the Small Capital Fund, which includes:
  - Minor projects for \$1 million;
  - Bulk funding for \$883,000 for 24 communities;
  - Building and equipment upgrades of \$2,867,000; and
  - Vehicles for \$250,000.

Of the remaining three projects put forward by CG&S, the following two projects are funded through the New Building Canada Fund and require funding to go ahead. These projects are:

- Upgrades to the water system in Resolute Bay for \$2 million; and
- Solid waste facilities bundle No. 2 that will provide upgrades to the landfills in five other communities yet to be determined, for a total of \$1.5 million.

The final cost shared project is funded through the Small Communities Fund for \$100,000 to provide facility assessment studies for the ten remaining communities that haven't had any arena upgrades yet. These communities are Arctic Bay, Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Kimmirut, Kugaaruk, and Naujaat.

Mr. Chairman, these projects reflect only a small portion of the territory's total infrastructure needs. As you know, we simply do not have the funding to cover all of the needed projects across Nunavut. It is only by working closely with our communities and major stakeholders that we can ensure we are focused on the most urgent and critical projects in the short term to support our government and our communities.

We must move forward together to continue to improve our ability to ensure that the scarce capital funding we have is administered as effectively as possible. This will allow us to establish a foundation of infrastructure resilient to the changing climates of the north, which contributes to strong and prosperous communities.

I would now be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Department of Community and Government Services' proposed 2017-18 capital estimates. Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year is \$41.45 million. The department's capital budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year was \$31,852,000.

Mr. Chairman, the department's operations have a significant impact on the success of the Government of Nunavut's overall capital planning process. On June 8 of 2016 the Minister of Finance appeared before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2016-2017*. In his opening comments the minister indicated that approximately 121 capital projects and \$122,591,000 in funding were being

carried over from the 2015-16 to the 2016-17 fiscal year. Members continue to have concerns regarding the volume of capital carryovers.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$1 million in funding for new preplanning studies. Members note that the purpose of these preplanning studies is to improve the government's capital planning process and to ensure that capital projects are completed on time and on budget.

In November of 2014 the Legislative Assembly approved \$2 million in capital funding for the department to undertake six preplanning studies for a number of projects. Members note with concern that a significant portion of this funding has not been spent to date. Members note that in June of 2016 the Legislative Assembly approved \$1.38 million in capital carryover funding for the department's preplanning studies project. The standing committee encourages the department to complete all of its preplanning studies in as timely a manner as possible.

Mr. Chairman, members note that the department's proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$5 million in small capital funding to complete various projects throughout the territory, including \$883,000 in block funding to be distributed in the territory's three regions, \$2,867,000 for building and equipment upgrades, \$250,000 for vehicle replacements, and \$1 million for various minor projects. The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to provide information on the department's specific expenditures under each of its small capital line items.

On April 7 of 2015 Infrastructure Canada announced that Nunavut will receive approximately \$256 million in funding under the Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component of the New Building Canada Fund. Members recognize that eligible projects under this funding will be cost shared between the federal government and the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the government's five-year capital plan includes information on capital projects in the territory that are funded by a third party. The standing committee looks forward to receiving regular updates on the status of these projects.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2017-18 capital estimates include \$1.5 million for a new phase of its project to upgrade solid waste sites across Nunavut. During the minister's recent appearance, members raised a number of concerns relating to the current conditions of water treatment, wastewater treatment and solid waste facilities across the territory. Members recognize that upgrading and replacing current infrastructure will require significant financial and operational commitment over a long period of time and looks forward to regular and ongoing updates on any reports and initiatives in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the department previously indicated that it had hired Dalhousie University to undertake a review of wastewater facilities in Nunavut to determine if these facilities are meeting effluent quality standards. The department has also previously indicated that a final report on this

review would be completed in January of 2016. The standing committee encourages the minister to table this report in the House at the earliest opportunity.

On September 6 of 2016 the federal government and the Government of Nunavut jointly announced a bilateral agreement that “will make more than \$68 million in combined funding available to Nunavut communities under a new federal program – the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.” Information provided by the department indicates that this funding will be allocated to projects in Iqaluit, Chesterfield Inlet, and Arviat. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of these projects.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s proposed 2017-18 capital estimates also include \$3.25 million for its project to upgrade the tank farms across the territory. Members recognize that the department intends to undertake these upgrades concurrently with capacity increase projects in various communities to increase cost savings where appropriate. Members encourage the department to continue to explore ways to achieve additional cost savings in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s proposed 2017-18 capital estimates also include \$3.4 million to be allocated under the government’s contribution agreement with the City of Iqaluit. Information provided by the department suggests that this contribution agreement will expire on March 31 of 2017. Members look forward to regular and detailed updates on any plans to renew this contribution agreement.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. I just want to remind members to ask your questions when we get to the branches. Before we do that, do members have any general comments? If not, we will start on page J-3. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Community Services. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a question. Planning is also in one of your comments. We asked a variety of questions about the government trying to decide where they would use the same design for certain infrastructure in order to cost save. Some of your comments are a little bit different than what we have heard from the other ministers when they were making reference to using a common design. What does using a common design mean to you? How do you understand common design? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The phrase common design means that the walls will be the same, the structure inside will be the same, an office will be here, and a storage room will be here. That’s about where it ends. The building itself will be roughly the same, but it can be changed in terms of where it’s going to be built, what kind of foundation it’s going to have, and if there are any new technologies that



could be put into it or if there are any new code standards that we have to adhere by. The common design means the building will look the same, but it does not mean it will be exactly the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you for clarifying that matter. If you can also answer this question, Mr. Savikataaq, in the committee's opening comments of the review, there was a statement outlining the severe concerns held by members of the committee about the carryovers of capital funding that has not been used. This is particularly relevant in the six-year funding requests for preplanning studies. How can you respond to this concern? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends)  
Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some projects will always have a carryover just because of our construction season and our shipping season. That is just unavoidable. There are some that are carried over because of the cash flow issues that we have. We try to do the projects that we want to do. Sometimes we have capacity issues in terms of there are only so many contractors within Nunavut. If we put too many projects all at the same time, there might be too much more work than Nunavut can take on in terms of if too many projects go into one community, they might not have space for all the hotel rooms and not enough workers.

We want to get our Inuit employment up as much as we can, so we try to stake out the projects. Once a project is supposed to go, we do our best to make sure it's on time and on schedule. The carryovers are drastically down from previous years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman**: Thank you for the promotion. Mr. Enook.

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Enook**: He was just joking.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it seems like the carryovers are constantly increasing. Ever since you took on the portfolio, have you and the officials within your department identified anything to make sure that there are fewer carryovers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that we have done to address this issue is to bring, an accountant would be the common term, but it's a specialist so that we can look at our cash flow problems and try to work that out. Even though we get the funding from the federal government, we still have to come up with our share and it has to go through the process like here. It's only approved for the capital projects once a year here when we meet in the fall, unless it's a supp bill. That's one of the things that we have done to try to address this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you for acknowledging me correctly. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure Minister Savikataaq and the other cabinet ministers are getting tired of listening to my question. If you will allow me, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question and I'll just use an example. For Clyde River's garage, they used \$375,000 and proposing \$1.5 million. With that, it is a class "D" estimate. They have already used huge sums of money. Why is it class "D"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A class "D" is in the early stage of the design. For example, the garage in Clyde River, when we're doing renovations, we go in there thinking we have to do A, B, C, and D and we spend money on that. Once we do the inspection and we figure out that we want to do A, B, C, and D, sometimes we have to do A, B, C, D, F, and G. That's mainly why it's still a class "D." When something is going to go to tender, it becomes a class "A." For that project, we will be tendering it out in the spring of 2017 and we will have a more defined and better cost at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further, Mr. Chairman, to use that selfsame example extrapolated to fuel tank renovations, where tanks have to be upgraded to code.

Mr. Chairman, there is another statement outlining Nunavut's (interpretation ends)

tank farm code compliance (interpretation) issues such that in the past years the fund spent over \$4.5 million and for the years 2017-2021 the budget estimate is listed at \$3 million per annum with an overall funding total of \$16.5 million.

It is still listed as a class "D" and it seems like the department knows that funding is available, which is why it is budgeted for these upcoming years, yet the wording included lists the funding as "unknown." Why is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That one there is class "D" because we know in which communities the work we're going to do, but we don't know exactly what the work is going to cost in each community.

If we bundle the projects together, if it costs a bit more in one community and a bit less in another community, then we can shift the money around without coming back here to the House. When there's a bunch of work we have to do, we like to get the total amount approved so that we don't have to keep coming back for these projects.

By the winter of 2017 they will be a class "A" because we will know more on exactly what needs to be done to address that issue and they would be tendered out in the spring of 2017. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Also in your substantiation sheet for small capital and minor projects, you are proposing \$1 million for the 2017-18 fiscal year and another \$1 million for the 2018-19 fiscal year. You're proposing the same figure annually up to year 2022. The total amount is \$5 million and there's no class identified there. It's (interpretation ends) not available. (interpretation) I don't understand that. Even though you're proposing to get \$1 million, there is no class identified. How do you know it will cost \$1 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a budget we put in for these funds here and they're funds that the hamlets apply into if they need funding for small projects. We don't know what funding requests we're going to get because something might come up. Someone's community hall might have a big flood and the floors are destroyed, and then we have to tear it up and fix it up. This is an applicant-based funding.

I can just give off a few examples of funds that were approved in the 2015-16 year: Hall Beach coast erosion plan; Kugaaruk sewage lagoon assessment; Taloyoak hamlet office security work; wastewater expert presentation through Dalhousie and stuff like that; Rankin Inlet chlorine cleaning.

It's funding based and they're funds that the hamlets apply for. We don't know where the funding is going to go, but just from historical data, that's about very

close to the amount that is given out annually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Savikataaq and your officials.

First of all, I want to go into his opening comments on page 2, the second last paragraph there, the second sentence. I just want some clarification. "Work is starting to enhance the GN's approach for determining the capital needs of our communities." Can you explain a little further in detail as to what you mean by this? There's a capital planning process. What do you mean by that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Minister Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if it is on the last page of my thing there, but I can speak to it anyway.

We work with Finance and the federal government to try to get our funding approved. We work with the hamlets through their integrated community sustainability plan where the hamlets identify their infrastructure needs and prioritize it. Once the hamlets have prioritized that list, a different committee made up from the hamlets and the government look at that list, give it a rating, and figure out which project should be prioritized.

We just don't have the funds to give everybody what they need, never mind

what they want. We don't have the funds to give all the municipalities what they need, so we have to prioritize and use what funds we have to the best of our ability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify to the minister, I was on page 2 of your opening comments, the second last paragraph from the bottom. It says here that you are "starting to enhance the GN's approach for determining the capital needs..." Yes, we know the process. The community identifies their priorities and then there is the advisory committee. How is the GN going to enhance this new approach? In what ways will this capital plan and how projects are funded going to be better moving forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things I said earlier when Mr. Enook asked what concrete steps we have taken to try to have less carryovers, I said one of them was to get a funding specialist to help us with the financing in terms of when we get the funding from the federal government. That is one of the ways that we have done it.

Like I said earlier, we work with the hamlets to prioritize their infrastructure needs. The biggest one is that we have to try to figure out how we get our funding because we still have to fund these projects. The bigger the project is the more portion of money that we have to

put in for the project to go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for his response. Looking at Schedule 4(2), you have a list of all the different projects for 2017-18. Looking at Cape Dorset, there is the 525 garage. I know this has been on the books for a number of years and there are even projects previous to this that are completed. I have asked the minister questions on, for example, sewage lagoons in both communities, Cape Dorset and Kimmirut. There are projects that were supposedly completed, but they are still not in commission. How does your department work on those types of projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct that some of these projects go a long ways and this just emphasizes more that we need to do better preplanning studies. If you do not plan for it, then your plan might not work very well.

The garage that he is talking about, 525, when they first approved it, they wanted to make it in 2011-12, I believe. They wanted to add two bays to it. The project was going ahead and they realized, "Well, there is not enough land to put two bays in there. We can only put one bay." A preplanning study would have pinpointed that earlier.

With the sewage lagoons there, if a preplanning study had been done too,

they might have realized that they shouldn't have put them where they put them. I am not here to talk about the past; I am just here to say that from here on we want to fix the problems that we had. One of the ways is to have a good preplanning study.

Just because a project gets a preplanning study doesn't mean it will go ahead. It just gives us a better understanding of what the project should be. If they do a preplanning study and find out, "No, we just can't do that project there at that location," we would be throwing good money away if we went ahead with it. That is part of what this preplanning is for. It is to make sure that we have the best, current information before we go ahead with a project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I guess that is what I am trying to get at. We have these projects in the communities that I represent. We don't want to duplicate that mistake, but given those mistakes, how are we going to deal with them? They were the priority of the Government of Nunavut over a decade ago and now they are still outstanding. We know the infrastructure deficit is huge.

Given this backlog of projects that are still outstanding even though we spent millions on them, do they just go back to the end of the list? I'm trying to see where the government is going. Can the minister provide some updates on those two specific projects? Have there been

any movement on those files? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can just get a clarification on which two projects so that I can make sure I address it properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The sewage lagoons in both Cape Dorset and Kimmirut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you for that clarification. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still working on the sewage lagoon in Cape Dorset. Dalhousie University has been doing a study on that to help us out and tell us exactly what we should do there. Once that report is finalized and given to us, we will have a better understanding. Right now we will probably be fixing it up, expanding it, and trying to make the best use of it while we can.

For the Kimmirut sewage lagoon, it is sad to say that we will probably be going back to square one there because they should have not built it where it was built, but I am not here to talk about that. I'm just saying that it's still a priority; it's just that we're going to be back to square one with the sewage lagoon in Kimmirut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for his response. Moving forward, I think we want to see a better approach in our infrastructure projects. We don't want to see it happen again. Kimmirut going back to square one, I'll have to think of that more.

Going on to a different topic, the preplanning studies, could you provide an update on which projects you are planning to pre-plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity, when we talk about preplanning studies, these are studies that we do for other departments too, mostly for infrastructure that other departments will be doing too. It's not just CGS projects. With the Department of Health, a Rankin Inlet mental health transitional facility and in Igloolik, a continuing care centre extension; Department of Education, a school addition in Taloyoak; Justice, Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre renovation; CGS projects, Rankin Inlet water infrastructure, utilidor expansion and upgrades, Arviat Tank Farm, fuel capacity increase and code compliance work; Economic Development and [Transportation], Naujaat Air Terminal Building and the Chesterfield Inlet Air Terminal Building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that list. Can I get clarification? Is that for the \$1 million that they have for 2017-18

or is there another list for that \$1 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. That's for the \$1 million proposed for 2017-18. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. (interpretation) That will be it (interpretation ends) for now.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Following the list of names, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was a bit confused. I thought we were still on the opening comments. Are we presently on J-3 and we can ask questions there? Okay. Thank you.

One of the capital carryover projects is the \$4.6 million in capital carryovers for the granular crush program. I wonder if you can explain which communities is your department undertaking its granular crushing projects and what is the status of this work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date there have been three granular projects. The first one was a pilot project in Kugluktuk, then they had one in Sanikiluaq, and the last one was

in Arviat. To my understanding, all the projects are working out quite well.

Just to inform the members who are here, the way this project works is it's a cost-sharing and the hamlets have to come up with their share of the funding. They put in a proposal through to purchase equipment and a training component of it. It comes through that fund and just those three projects have been done so far. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware that Sanikiluaq was a part of these projects.

Sanikiluaq did about two years ago, I want to say three but at least two years ago, obtain crushing equipment. Ever since it has been in the community, it sits idle because of a couple of reasons. I'm assuming the government or the hamlet doesn't have the funding to provide the training for people to do the crushing.

I'm also aware of the fact that once the equipment is in place, it's supposed to be kind of self-sustaining. You crush the rock and you sell it. My understanding is that my municipality is not in a position to crush because they don't have the funding. They're in a deficit situation and can't afford to crush rocks upfront and sell it later.

I'm just wondering if Sanikiluaq has used up all of their funds or are there any funds still available from these projects where Sanikiluaq can obtain training and create a stockpile so that they can go into

their future self-sustained and selling the stockpile they create. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the crushing equipment was purchased, there was a training component and staff would have been trained, but the staff that were trained could be gone now and they're not employed anymore. I am not familiar with the situation in Sanikiluaq, but there would have been a training component.

If the hamlet in Sanikiluaq is in a deficit, then I would imagine that they might have to wait 'til they're out of deficit. I realize that this is expensive equipment and it should be used; it should not be sitting idle. We can work with the community and come up with solutions on how we may be able to resolve the issue because we do want the equipment used. We don't go into this funding agreement just to buy a piece of lawn ornament. It's something that the community needs and that's why it was requested, so it should be used.

I can't make a firm commitment saying that "Yeah, we are going to come in and we're going to give you X number of dollars to make sure that thing is operational," but we will work with the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq to come up with a solution to try to get the equipment working. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like the minister said, we don't like to see equipment sitting idle. It's proven in history that any equipment that's left idle in our communities become vandalized and broken over time when it's not being maintained and taken care of.

With a little help from the government where the hamlet could create a stockpile and begin selling the material to various contractors or for whatever needs in the community, I think it will go a long ways to making sure that it can sustain itself over the long term. I will just leave that as a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Following the list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief question on the opening comments and it's specifically on page 4.

Further, I wish to welcome the minister and his officials firstly.

On page 4 it lists the \$100,000, which speaks to funding for ten communities. What is the purpose of this fund of \$100,000? Will this fund be split up amongst the communities to commence this work within each fiscal year? What exactly is the purpose of this fund? Can the minister provide further clarification on this fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This fund of \$100,000 will be used for the ten

communities that require arena upgrades. Assessment studies will be conducted on the sections that require upgrading and the approximation of the costs to do the work. This is not funding for any construction work. It is only for preliminary studies on what work is required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his clarification. Let me move on to another matter related to this \$100,000 fund of your department, which you stated will be specifically for the ten community arenas requiring upgrades.

Will this fund the preplanning studies for the ten communities in the 2017-18 fiscal year or will two communities get their arenas completed during the course of this fiscal year or will the work only commence starting in 2020? What exactly is the work breakdown associated with this fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$100,000 fund is specific for the assessment studies that will be conducted in fiscal year 2017-18.

However, with respect to the actual upgrades to the arenas, the fund comes from the (interpretation ends) New Building Canada Fund (interpretation) and this fund is scheduled to end in 2024. To date the plan is to commence



the work on the arenas up to that date totalling ten arenas.

To ensure that it is clear, the \$100,000 is not for construction of any kind, but rather for studies on what work is required and to approximate the costs of such work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Alexander Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to (interpretation ends) preplanning, (interpretation) the minister responded to the previous questions, so my question revolves more around further clarification.

The communities in Nunavut are categorized into three regions, Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Baffin, and if my understanding is erroneous, the minister can correct me. The project officers work within the projects departments on the preplanning work. The (interpretation ends) project officers (interpretation) in the regional offices such as (interpretation ends) Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, or Pond Inlet (interpretation) where these project officers positions are housed, are they all filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification first for the preplanning study there, we don't divide up into the three regions of Nunavut; it's spent on the capital

planning process and projects that may go ahead.

As for Mr. Sammurtok's question about all the project officers, are they staffed? No, they are not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Please be aware that your question is geared more towards O&M. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know (interpretation ends) that's on the O&M side. I just wanted to find out because that's a lot of money that is being backlogged for all the capital projects funding.

(interpretation) I would just like to thank the minister and his department for the brand-new truck the fire department received this summer. Thank you for that.

However, I would like clarification on which communities will be receiving new fire trucks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next one on the list, as I stated earlier, for 2017 would be Cape Dorset. I have a list up to 2028 if the member wants me to name all the towns, but the next one is Cape Dorset. If he wants me to name all towns, then I will. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Thanks for the information. Maybe through the Chair, you would be able to give us all the communities listing.

(interpretation) I have a question on another matter in regard to the Rankin Inlet arena. It is set for 2017-18. When will the actual construction be done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2017-18 the money that has been requested is for the design of the arena and once the design is done, it would go to tender. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Are we indicating that the design of the arena is 2017-18, so construction starts at 2019?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we have a much better schedule than that.

>>Laughter

It should be out to tender by March of 2017 and if all goes well, the arena should be completed by January of 2019. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are J-3 and J-4 being dealt with together? Let me first ask that question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Yes, we are on those pages. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's something that one of my colleagues mentioned. Mr. Joanasie asked a question about a part of it and there is another part of it that I would like information on. You talked about the \$1 million for preplanning studies. You also mentioned the Naujaat Air Terminal Building and I understood that the money will be used in 2017-18. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has understood correctly. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been asking this question ever since we started in 2013 because the community really needs one and it's good to see that they are going to start looking at it. With that being the case, can the minister explain to us how much money would be utilized on the preplanning study for the Naujaat Air Terminal Building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't tell the member how much will be spent on that project, on the preplanning study. As I stated earlier, not all preplanning studies are approved as capital projects. We do a preplanning study and if it's approved as a capital project, then it comes here to the House to get approval for the money. This is just the very start of it. We are doing a preplanning study for an air terminal building in Naujaat. I can't even tell the member how much the study itself will cost right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The response from the minister was quite clear and understandable. With that being the case, once costs are known for upgrading the air terminal buildings, would the minister be able to inform the hamlets, such as the Hamlet of Naujaat, that the study will commence in their community or not? I am asking about the (interpretation ends) preplanning studies (interpretation) and if this would be included. Would the minister be able to provide this information to the hamlet? Hopefully I was clear and the minister understood. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll do my best to see if I understood.

The preplanning study will determine whether or not it's a feasible project and how much it would cost. Once that is done, a proposal may be put forward by Economic Development. That's their department. If their proposal is accepted in the capital plan, put forward here, and the funding is approved, then it becomes a project.

The hamlet would be notified once it becomes a project because we don't go around telling the hamlets, "You may get this. You may get that." It's much nicer and cleaner just to wait until it's approved and then they know what they're getting. It's just the process of how it works here. Once it's approved here as a project, the hamlet would be notified, but I would imagine that, if you're still a member then, you would be able to notify them right away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually I am aware that this is the responsibility of the Department of ED&&T. Nonetheless, what caught my ear was when someone stated that when the designs are being drawn up, your department conducts that work, if I am correct, for preplanning.

Now, if the work was deemed acceptable for the terminal in Naujaat, would the design emulate an existing design such as the one being constructed in Taloyoak? Would it be the same design, if the project was approved for construction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't say whether or not it would be a common design similar to Taloyoak because the preplanning study is not done. The preplanning study would determine whether it can be a common design because we're at the very beginning. It's just like a thought right now and we've got to bring it from a thought to a project. Part of the process is the preplanning. Once the preplanning is done, it brings it to a class "D" estimate.

I can't assure the member what the design will look like yet. Once the preplanning is done, I would have more information to give to him. If it is possible, then it would probably be a common design. As of right now I can't tell him if it would look like the Taloyoak Air Terminal Building or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me move on to a different topic. I asked you a number of times about sewage lagoons. You indicated to us by letter saying that the money that was slated for the Naujaat sewage lagoon project is no longer there. The money that was supposed to be used for that purpose has been utilized somewhere else, according to your letter. Even though money has always been budgeted for the sewage lagoon project, you said it was delayed. Is there still money slated for the Naujaat sewage lagoon project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, some of that money was moved out for projects that had to be done right away. Some of the sewage lagoon project money was taken out, but there still is money there for Naujaat.

They don't have a sewage lagoon in terms of they put a whole bunch of gravel around, we dump sewage in there, and then it filters out. They have what are called the wetlands where the sewage is naturally decontaminated or leached out. I'm not sure what the proper word is, but it's treated by nature. From the studies that Dalhousie has been doing in some of the communities, the water is coming out pretty clean, just as clean as if they spent a small fortune on building a gravel or man-made sewage lagoon.

The study is done for Naujaat now, but we haven't decided exactly what is going to be done there yet. There still is money there. Even if we don't make a sewage lagoon, we will do some enhanced work on the wetlands to make sure that it's going to be doing what it's supposed to do, not just for now but for many years in the future.

The project is not cancelled. It's on hold because we're not sure what we need to build there to meet wastewater requirements for Naujaat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Following the list of names, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a variety of questions. I believe we're on J-3 and J-4. Mr. Chairman, my first question will be regarding

communications. It's always changing and evolving.

For 2017-18, you indicated that there is going to be \$2 million set aside for the proposal to upgrade the communication technology infrastructure. I believe you did that in 2015-16. Have the upgrades been done? Since communication technology is always evolving, are we going to see this as a line item on an annual basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I answer the first question, I'll just make it clear that the IT services that CGS provides are for all of government and all the departments. When we see funding requests for IT, it's not just for CG&S. We are a service department and we service all the government departments.

As for the question that there was \$2 million now and are we going to ask for the big amount of \$2 million again next year, yes. We are probably going to ask for \$2 million every single year and that's probably not going to be enough. The amount of data that the government uses is just increasing all the time and we have to be able to manage it. There are more and more issues with security issues and we have to tackle that. The short answer is yes, we will be asking for minimum the same amount next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)

Using the minister's own words, "we have to manage it." Are you contemplating coming back next year looking for another \$2 million because you are not managing it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are managing it. I anticipate coming back for the same amount because the amount of data and the amount that IT services are being used are growing every year and we have to be able to deal with it. We're a service department. Health is using it more for telehealth. Education is using it more. Every department is using more and more of IT services. We are managing it well; it's just growing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe this question was brought up earlier, but in the proposed capital estimates for 2017-18 you included \$1 million to be used for preplanning studies. I do apologize if it was brought up earlier, but can you indicate how many preplanning studies you will be doing this year and approximately how much it will cost? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did answer it, but I will answer it again.

The total project that we are requesting for is for \$1 million and the client departments will be: Health will have two projects, Rankin Inlet's mental health transitional facility and Igloodik continuing care centre extension; Education, school addition in Taloyoak; Department of Justice, Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre renovations; Community and Government Services, Rankin Inlet water infrastructure, utilidor expansion and upgrades, Arviat Tank Farm fuel capacity increase and code compliance work; Economic Development and Transportation, Naujaat Air Terminal Building and Chesterfield Inlet Air Terminal Building.

We don't know how much each project will be using, but the budget we are requesting is for \$1 million to do all of those projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Did I hear the minister indicate that there's also something in there for the Pond Inlet airport hub? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the member had a malfunctioning earpiece. No, I did not say that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again in the five-year capital plan for 2018-2022, it includes Nunavut Administration. I apologize if I didn't say it properly in Inuktitut. It indicates that they're going to be using the Building Canada Fund and in our government's five-year capital plan there's \$754,000 that will be set aside for that purpose. What exactly is Nunavut Administration? I'm aware that my Inuktitut is not clear on this. What is it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's for administering all of the projects that are going to be part of the New Building Canada Fund's Small Communities Fund. It's just to administer the work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. Going right along, I think it was last year or the year before in November 2014 when we approved funding for minor capital in the 2015-16 fiscal year. We approved \$5 million at that time and it was going to expire this spring in March. Did we use all the funds or was there any left over? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member just rephrase his question? I didn't quite understand it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Please rephrase your question, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to rephrase it, even though my question was well phrased. Can the minister indicate if his department spend all of its capital funds for that year or did they have some left over? It was going to lapse at the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year on March 31. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying his question. My understanding is that it was pretty well almost all spent. The majority of that money was spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. Do you know exactly how much was left over? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have exactly how much was left in front of us here right now, but I will definitely get that information back to the member through the Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. Again I think it was two years ago we approved \$2,867,000 for the project for 2015-16 and it was for building and

equipment upgrades. Can you provide a breakdown of how this funding was spent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2015-16 we spent just about \$3 million, \$2,997,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's way over budget and you didn't get approval for that. (interpretation) I'm just kidding. I didn't ask about that. I asked if you can give us a breakdown of how this money was spent. I'm not too worried about how much was spent. What did you purchase with that amount or what was upgraded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are about 15 projects here. I would just like to get clarification if the member either wants me to give him a list or I read them off right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I could ask, Mr. Chairman, maybe it's best if the minister would be willing to give us a list through your chairmanship. (interpretation) It

will be easier that way and it's okay if I don't see it right now.

I'll move on to another subject. In 2014 the Legislative Assembly approved \$1 million for small capital projects for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Can you also provide a breakdown of how this funding was spent? If there were many projects, then we can get that information by way of our Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will provide the first list there through you to the members, and I will also provide the list for the other projects through you again. It is quite a long list and it would take a while to name them all. Yes, we will provide that information to the Chair and the Chair will give it to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a question on the 2017-18 capital estimates. Your department includes \$250,000 in small capital funding to replace a number of vehicles throughout the territory. Can you provide details on the number and types of vehicles that each community will receive during the 2017-18 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These vehicles are for CGS

work for our staff and we don't know what vehicles we're going to get yet because they haven't gone out to tender yet because this budget is not approved. Once it is approved, we can provide that list to the members, but as of right now we don't know what we're going to get. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. I have seen a letter, but I can't seem to find it at this time.

Perhaps let me ask a question in regard to vehicles. Each department has to purchase a vehicle. I believe that your department purchased vehicles for other departments. If I'm not mistaken, your department is a service provider to purchase vehicles for other departments and if they want to get a vehicle, they go to your department.

Do you go straight to the supplier or do you go to a middleman? If so, why do you use the middleman? The middleman increases the price. It would be cheaper to go directly to the supplier rather than using a middleman. I would like to get a response on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to answer the member's question as best as I can.

We will start off in the beginning by this money that we're requesting here is for CGS, but I understand his comment about all the departments. The departments put in what the vehicle will be used for and what specs they need.



Each department does that for their own vehicle purchases, and then the tendering process goes out through CG&S.

We have different methods or systems of getting the best price we can. Sometimes we go for just a general tender and sometimes there is a standing offer agreement. We just try to get price possible for what equipment to meet the needs of the department for the equipment that they are requesting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's why I'm asking this question. We all want to use our funding adequately and I'm sure your department wants to utilize the funds to the best of its ability.

Isn't it cheaper to go straight to the vehicle dealer without using a middleman? (interpretation ends) Would it be cheaper to go directly to a dealer than go through a middleman or contractor? I saw the list the other day and it has a whole bunch of companies that were used as a middleman to buy a vehicle. Why can't you go directly to the dealer down south? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not a straightforward issue, but I'll try to explain or justify what we do.

We can't go directly to one dealer because that would be sole sourcing and the people would be in an uproar, "Why

are you supporting this one dealer over that dealer?" We can't do that.

Sometimes we can't go directly to the dealer either because there is NNI. There might be someone within Nunavut that says, "Look, you're cutting me out. I'm trying to keep my employees working and you're bypassing me and going straight to dealers down south."

It's not a simple issue as it seems to be. Mostly because of NNI and because sole sourcing, we generally have to go either to a tender or if we have a standing offer agreement with certain companies, then that's the process too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook, 10 seconds.

>>*Laughter*

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't quite understand your explanation, so I'll try to get further information outside of this meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must be very hard to notice and I'm just happy about that.

Welcome to the minister and his officials. I would like to ask a question on his opening comments on top of page 2, the third paragraph.

I know it's very difficult for the government to address capital issues as they constitute a major expenditure. The

Government of Nunavut has to participate in difficult discussions with the federal government in order to arrive at some agreement.

I would like to ask this question, Mr. Chairman. Do the Nunavut government and the federal government have problems understanding each other? Do I understand it correctly? I apologize if I misunderstood it. That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just try to explain to the member a bit what I mean by that.

We work with the federal government and we appreciate the funding that they give us, but we have to educate them on our situation up north where we have a very short construction season and we have a short shipping season. We have to work around the funding requirements and we have to work with them to try to ease the funding restrictions and requirements so that they can fit our needs. For example, if we miss a sealift, the project is gone for the year because we only get sealift in the summer.

We have to make the federal government aware of our needs. It's a new government and they seem to be receptive that we are unique up here and we should be treated... I don't know if "differently" is the proper word, but when projects are being done up in Nunavut, they should be a little more flexible because it is different up here.

We also work with the communities with their integrated community sustainability

plans in terms of making sure that we get what the hamlets need, what their priority is. As a government, we're not here to tell the hamlets what they need and what they should get. We want to hear from the hamlets to see what their needs are and then we will work with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a follow-up question. If the materials miss the summer sealift and they have to wait a year, it probably gets more expensive. I'm asking if the materials missed the sealift and they were left behind in one of the communities and perhaps be forgotten. Since they're not that huge, they have to be sent out by cargo on the airplane. I know that it would increase the cost if you have to send them out by airline. What would happen then? Will the people who had ordered their materials have to pay more? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure which community Mr. Qirngnuq is referring to, but the terms and conditions would be dictated in the contract and it depends on what the contract states. It may be the contractor's responsibility to make sure that they get to the community or it may be the government's responsibility. Unless we know exactly which contract or which community he's talking about, I can't talk any more specific than it would be up to the terms of the contract for the sealift. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I disagree with the minister, so I'll move on to another item. The funding for Kugaaruk's hamlet office is \$5.5 million. When does the minister expect to go do an official opening for the hamlet office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Kugaaruk hamlet office/community hall stuff should have arrived this fall of 2016. If I get an invitation, if I come back here as an elected member, and if I come back as the CGS minister, I will definitely go to the opening. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope he gets re-elected.

I'll move on to another topic, the sewage lagoon funding provided to the municipalities. Some sewage lagoons seep out and I believe that there are no liners. I'm sure the minister heard about these issues. Can you give me clarification on that? That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some sewage lagoons are lined and some are not lined. In general they are designed to slowly leech out so that the waste water is filtered out. By the time it's done all its leeching, it's within the regulations and standards for the kind of water that comes out that's fairly clean. Sewage lagoons generally leech out. It's a filtering system. It's not like a reservoir where we put the water in there and keep it in there and we keep putting it in.

The sewage lagoons are designed to filter out all the impurities and what goes in and what comes out should be quite drastically different. The water should just naturally slowly get purified too in terms of rainwater and all that. If a sewage lagoon is getting full, then they have to decant at times from the top because everything settles down. Most sewage lagoons are designed to leech out a bit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is along the same line, but not exactly. I want to ask about the waste oil that is stored in barrels and put in a non-fenced area. I think they might leak out as they age. Can our government or minister have a storage area built? There is such a facility in Kugaaruk. Why is it not being used? They cost a lot of money to build. I would like further information, if he can explain it to me. I hope I am clear enough. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to sewage lagoons here, I have been given enhanced wording. The proper word is exfiltration. It's not leeching, just to get back to that.

>>*Laughter*

Going back to Mr. Qirngnuq about used oil storage, it may be looked at with a bundling request that we have for the solid waste. As of right now all we do is store and it has to be properly stored. I was questioned in the House last week that to store them is not the solution. We have to come up with a solution on how to deal with it. We can't just store them forever.

As I stated at that time too, currently there are only two ways to get rid of waste oil and that's to ship it down south or burn it in a waste oil burner, whether it be a furnace or just a burner. The companies or the people that produce the waste oil are responsible for disposing of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Proficiency is in the facts. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to my earlier comment about waste oil in barrels, there's a leakage over there on the waste oil storage. I think more money will have to be spent by the hamlet or even by our government. When will it be able to be inspected or would it be dealt with through the hamlet by our government? That will be my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand correctly, the member said that there has been a spill of used oil in Kugaaruk. I can assure you that the Minister of Environment is also listening to these proceedings

>>*Laughter*

He will pass the message down to his officials to have that looked at and taken care of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Following my list of names, (interpretation ends) Mr. Rumbolt, your second round of questions. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could have asked this question earlier, but I forgot and when we got on the topic sewage lagoons, I thought it would be good to ask on a status report on the sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq. This lagoon has been on the books now for many years and it has been delayed for various reasons over the years, and it's not all to our own government's doing. I'm just wondering if the minister is prepared today to give us a quick update on the progress of the sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to give all the members an update, sewage lagoons are an issue in many communities and one of the unforeseen problems that we have run into is Transport Canada regulations in

terms of where a sewage lagoon can be located.

As the member is quite aware, he's aware of all the issues we've had with building a new sewage lagoon and we could not get the proper permitting to build a new sewage lagoon. We are looking at working and enhancing the current sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq, but just so that the member knows, we still have to get permission to expand it. We are looking at it and we will deal with it. It's just that sometimes our hands are tied by stuff that is just beyond our control, but there are a few communities where we have to build sewage lagoons and we have to figure out how to do it.

I don't have any new information to the member right now. I can't tell him that "Yes, next year construction is starting to expand the sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq," but I can assure the member that we're working hard on it and we're working with Transport Canada. We're not building a new sewage lagoon. It's to expand and enhance the existing one in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the update. I know that Transport Canada is a big issue considering Sanikiluaq's location and we're pretty well surrounded by water. To try to stay four kilometres from the airport is not an easy task in my community.

I know that recently Dalhousie University was in there doing studies on the water flowing out of the lagoon. I'm wondering when this report from

Dalhousie is going to be complete for my community or if it's part of the same report that they're planning to release in January. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct in the latter. It's part of the same report that will be released in January. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Community and Government Services. Community Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$33 million. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go to page J-5. Community and Government Services. Petroleum Products Division. Total Capital Expenditures. \$8,450,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go to page J-2. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$41,450,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Community and Government Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do you have closing comments, Minister Savikataaq?

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. I would like to thank my staff, Ms. Kimball and Mr. Flynn, for being here to assist me in the questions. I would like to thank the members for being engaged in the department and what we're trying to do.

Lastly, I would thank the members that they know that CGS stands for Community and Government Services now, not like last year. It was three days of "Come and get Savikataaq!" Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 24 and the capital estimates, and would like

to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that tomorrow at ten o'clock in the morning, there's a meeting of the Regular Caucus in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for October 25:

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 (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.  
>>*House adjourned at 18:47*
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
- Bill 20
  - Bill 21
  - Bill 22
  - Bill 23
  - Bill 25
  - Bill 26
  - Bill 27
  - Bill 28
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
- Bill 24
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 Tuesday, October 25, at 1:30 p.m.

# **Appendix – October 24, 2016**





**Standing Committee on  
Public Accounts, Independent Officers and Other Entities**

***Report on the Review of the 2015-2016 Annual Report of the  
Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut***

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
Fall 2016 Sitting**

**Pat Angnakak, Chair  
Alexander Sammurtok, Co-Chair  
Tony Akoak, MLA  
Joe Enook, MLA  
David Joanasie, MLA  
Paulosie Keyootak, MLA  
Steve Mapsalak, MLA  
Simeon Mikkungwak, MLA  
Paul Okalik, MLA  
Emiliano Qirngnuq, MLA  
Allan Rumbolt, MLA  
Tom Sammurtok, MLA  
Isaac Shooyook, MLA**

**[www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Introduction

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The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides for the Commissioner of Nunavut to appoint, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner for a five-year term of office.

Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts was reappointed on February 24, 2015, for a 5-year term of office as Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner. This is her fourth term as Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. Ms. Keenan Bengts also serves as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories enacted the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* prior to division. As the Information and Privacy Commissioner has noted:

“The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was created to promote, uphold and protect access to the information that government creates and receives and to protect the privacy rights of individuals.”

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and regulations made under the Act were inherited from the Northwest Territories on April 1, 1999. Between 1999 and 2012, a number of minor amendments to the legislation were made to address conflicts with other territorial statutes. The changes that have been made to the regulations since April 1, 1999, have been largely housekeeping in nature. The list of public bodies has been amended to reflect changes to the organizational structure of the government.

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, received 1<sup>st</sup> Reading on June 1, 2012. Bill 38 received Assent on June 8, 2012. These amendments provided clear authority for the Information and Privacy Commissioner to undertake privacy-related reviews concerning personal information held by public bodies. The amendments also established a statutory requirement for public bodies to notify the Information and Privacy Commissioner where a material breach of privacy has occurred with respect to personal information under their control. The amendments came into force on May 11, 2013.

Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Regulations* were published in the April 2015 edition of Part II of the *Nunavut Gazette*. The most significant amendment is the inclusion of housing associations and housing authorities under the definition of “public body.” This means that the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* now applies to Local Housing Organizations.

As the Information and Privacy Commissioner has noted, her office is mandated to:

“...conduct reviews of decisions of public bodies and to make recommendations to the Minister involved ... the Information and Privacy Commissioner has the obligation to promote the principles of the Act through public education. She is also mandated to provide the government with comments and suggestions with respect to legislative and other government initiatives which affect access to information or the distribution of private personal information in the possession of a government agency.”

Under section 68 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the Information and Privacy Commissioner is required to prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly on her office’s activities.

The standing committee’s televised hearings provide an opportunity for the issues raised in each report to be discussed in a public forum. Government accountability is fostered through the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*, which requires that the government table a comprehensive response to the standing committee’s report and recommendations within 120 days of its presentation to the House.

In 2005, the Government of Nunavut began the practice of tabling an annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The government’s most recent annual report on the administration of the Act was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 3, 2015.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2015 appearance before the standing committee took place on September 28, 2015, on the occasion of its televised hearing on her 2014-2015 annual report to the Legislative Assembly. Officials from the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs subsequently appeared before the standing committee.

The standing committee’s report on its hearing was subsequently presented to the Legislative Assembly on November 4, 2015. The Government of Nunavut’s response to the standing committee’s report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 15, 2016. The *Final Report on the Department of Family Services’ Current Privacy Safeguards and Next Steps in Drafting the Protocol for Handling Personal Information Provided to Third Parties Under the Adoption Act and the Child and Family Services Act* was tabled on June 7, 2016.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2015-2016 annual report was backdoor tabled under the provisions of Rule 44(2) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* on July 24, 2016. The September 13-14, 2016, appearances of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and Government of Nunavut officials before the standing committee took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee's hearings were televised live across the territory and were open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. Transcripts from the standing committee's hearings will be available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

## Observations and Recommendations

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**Issue: Government of Nunavut Responses to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Review Recommendations**

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's annual reports to the Legislative Assembly include summaries of each formal review recommendation that she made during the period of time covered by the annual report.

The standing committee applauds the Information and Privacy Commissioner for ensuring that the full text of each review recommendation is publicly available on her office's website. These review recommendations contain detailed analysis and commentary on each matter that formally comes before her during the course of the year, and are invaluable for achieving a full understanding of the complexities of the issues that her office addresses.

Section 68 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that:

### Annual Report

68. The Information and Privacy Commissioner shall, by July 1 in each year, submit to the Legislative Assembly an assessment of the effectiveness of this Act and a report on the activities of the Information and Privacy Commissioner under this Act during the previous year, **including information concerning any instances where recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner after a review have not been followed.**

In its November 4, 2015, report, the standing committee recommended that the Government of Nunavut's formal written responses to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's review recommendations be made publicly accessible through posting on the website of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The standing committee applauds the Information and Privacy Commissioner for undertaking this work in a timely manner and making publicly available all review recommendations that have been completed by her office.

In her 2015-2016 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“Sections 36 and 49.6 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* require the head of a public body to respond to recommendations made and to either follow those recommendations or make any other decision considered appropriate. This decision must be in writing and must be provided to the Applicant or Complainant, as the case may be, and to my office.

There is, however, very little accountability for public bodies after this step has been taken. Public bodies are not required to report back to my office or to the Applicant/Complainant once the recommendations have been implemented. Until now, the public would not even know whether or not the recommendations were accepted, let alone be able to follow up with the public body on whether the recommendations had been completed. The posting of the government’s responses on my website, alongside the Review Recommendations, will help to promote an increased ability for the public to follow up and demand accountability.”

During her September 13, 2016, appearance before the standing committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“I would like to see provisions that would make the recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner something that has to be addressed one way or another. Right now I make recommendations and they’re accepted most of the time but at that point, I don’t know whether they’re ever followed through. I would like to see something that gives back to government, the accountability to address the recommendations made. How one does that, I don’t know. Require the public bodies to report back to the Information and Privacy Commissioner once the recommendations have been completed, perhaps.”

Section 49.6 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that:

#### Decision of Head

49.6. Within 90 days after receiving the report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner under section 49.5, the head of the public body concerned shall (a) make a decision to follow the recommendation of the Information and Privacy Commissioner or make any other decision the head considers appropriate; and (b) give written notice of the decision to the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the individual who requested the review under subsection 49.1(1).”

The standing committee notes that the Information and Privacy Commissioner has made numerous recommendations to the Government of Nunavut since the establishment of her office. While a number of these recommendations relate to specific reviews of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the standing committee notes that a number of these recommendations are more general in nature and relate to policies and practices concerning the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The standing committee applauds the government for accepting, in large part, the recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. However, the standing committee notes with concern that the government does not clearly account for its **actual implementation** of these recommendations.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #1:**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut begin the practice of including in its annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* a detailed account of the extent to which public bodies have implemented the recommendations that were made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner during the fiscal year covered by the annual report.

**Issue: Privacy Audits of Government of Nunavut Departments, Crown Agencies and Territorial Corporations**

During her September 18, 2014, appearance before the Standing Committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“There are lots of projects that I would like to involve myself more in. For example, with the new authority given to me under the privacy provisions of the Act, I would like to be able to undertake privacy audits of various departments and organizations to see how they’re doing and make suggestions for improvement.”

In its October 28, 2014, report to the House, the standing committee recommended that the Government of Nunavut:

“... co-operate with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in undertaking at least one formal privacy audit of a department, Crown agency or territorial corporation during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and that the results of the privacy audit be tabled in the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable.”

In its formal response to the standing committee’s October 28, 2014, report, the Government of Nunavut indicated that it:

“... welcomes all tools that can help to improve the privacy of our programs. The Information and Privacy Commissioner can expect full compliance with any privacy audit conducted within the Government of Nunavut. We consider this an opportunity to improve internal processes as well as a learning experience for our employees.”

During her September 13, 2016, appearance before the standing committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated in her opening comments that:

“The Committee also encouraged me to undertake at least one formal privacy audit of a GN department in 2015-16. I chose the Qikiqtani [General] Hospital for this review largely because it is a large public body which collects large quantities of the most sensitive personal information about Nunavummiut. In order to do a thorough and effective job of this, my first privacy audit, I engaged the services of Robert Gary Dickson, the former Information and Privacy Commissioner of Saskatchewan and one of Canada’s pre-eminent experts in health privacy law, to assist me.”



Members engaged in a broad dialogue with the Information and Privacy Commissioner concerning the outcomes of her privacy audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital. In response to questions concerning the challenges associated with conducting her office's audit, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“Actually we found that the staff and management at the hospital were very open and went out of their way to get us what we needed. We did, however, run into more difficulty with the Department of Health because at the moment, the hospital is not a public body in and of itself. It is part of the Department of Health and the Department of Health was a little less inviting, shall we say, or interested in having us there and there was a little bit more reluctance. It took us a little bit more digging to get what we needed from them.”

The standing committee notes with concern that these challenges echo the Office of the Languages Commissioner's challenges, which it faced while conducting a systemic investigation of the Qikiqtani General Hospital. On March 1, 2012, the Office of the Languages Commissioner began its systemic investigation of the Qikiqtani General Hospital. On November 24, 2015, the Languages Commissioner appeared before the standing committee on the occasion of its televised hearings to review her 2013-2014 annual report. At that time, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

“It was very difficult to do the systemic investigation of the whole hospital. In the requests we made in previous years that were documented, we were never responded to and I have been thinking that once the Act is being reviewed ... I feel that there needs to be an obstruction clause to not investigate, but to give our office more authority on such matters. Whenever we requested a document or anything from them during our investigation, it seemed like it didn't matter if they ignored us and there was really no recourse for us. We even started thinking about using the courts to get those documents. They were finally given to us when we started thinking like that.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #2:**

**The Standing Committee reaffirms** its support for ensuring that the Government of Nunavut protects the privacy of individuals to the greatest extent possible.

**The Standing Committee strongly urges** the Government of Nunavut's departments, Crown agencies and territorial corporations to demonstrate a clear commitment to openness, co-operation and transparency with respect to the work of all independent officers of the Legislative Assembly whose statutory mandates are to ensure government compliance with the provisions of such statutes as the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the *Official Languages Act*, the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

**The Standing Committee looks forward** to reviewing the Information and Privacy Commissioner's final report on her office's privacy audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

to notify the Information and Privacy Commissioner where a material breach of privacy has occurred with respect to personal information under their control.

Subsection 49.9(1) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that:

Public Body to report to Information and Privacy Commissioner  
49.9(1) A public body that knows or has reason to believe that a breach of privacy has occurred with respect to personal information under its control shall report the breach of privacy to the Information and Privacy Commissioner in accordance with this section if the breach is material.

In her 2015-2016 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“Nunavut was the first jurisdiction in Canada to make it a requirement that all public bodies report material breaches of privacy to my office and to report such breaches to the individuals involved when the breach creates a real risk of significant harm to those individuals. That Nunavut was first to do this is to be applauded. This is now one of the amendments being discussed in most Canadian jurisdictions currently reviewing their Acts. I am concerned, however, that those who work within the GN are not yet fully aware of the obligations imposed on them to report breaches. While I have received a few breach reports under this section, I would have expected there to be more. This is a significant obligation and, if only because humans are imperfect, there are bound to be instances in which information is lost or falls into the wrong hands. Every employee who deals in any way with personal information should be receiving at least basic training about how to recognize a breach of privacy and what to do when a breach happens. More education of GN employees is called for in this regard.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #3:**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed account of how its employee orientation and training programs provide information on the requirements to report material breaches of privacy under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

**Issue: Application of Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Legislation to Municipalities**

An ongoing issue that has been raised in the context of annual hearings on the reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is the application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to Nunavut's municipalities.

At present, Nunavummiut have statutorily-prescribed rights under federal and territorial legislation concerning access to information and protection of privacy in relation to the institutions of the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut. However, there is still no legislative framework concerning access to information and protection of privacy with respect to the municipal level of government in Nunavut. In her 2015-2016 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“While I understand the limitations that Nunavut municipalities face in terms of resources, expertise and infrastructure, I am starting to receive more and more requests that involve municipal governments and I have seen no real progress in ensuring that municipalities are responsible for either access or privacy protection. Steps, even small ones, need to be taken to move municipalities toward basic access to information rights and privacy protections.”

In its formal response to the standing committee's November 4, 2015, report, the Government of Nunavut indicated that it is:

“... dedicated to working with municipalities to prepare them for implementation of access and privacy principles in the near future. The ultimate goal is to bring them under the ATIPP Act, with the appropriate authoritative oversight.

It should be noted that the current business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicates that:

“The department will continue discussions with the City of Iqaluit and Nunavut Association of Municipalities on potential revisions to the ATIPP Act that would allow for the inclusion of municipalities, and ensure meaningful compliance and effective implementation.”

It should also be noted that, in its September 14, 2016, opening statement to the standing committee, the Government of Nunavut's lead witness indicated that:

"The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has engaged municipalities and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities for a number of years on their inclusion under the Act. At this time, the GN is working on creating the necessary legislative framework that will support the application of access and privacy legislation within municipalities."

Extensive discussion on these issues took place during the September 13-14, 2016, appearances of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and witnesses from the Government of Nunavut.

#### **Standing Committee Recommendation #4:**

**The standing committee reaffirms** its support for ensuring that appropriate legislative frameworks concerning access to information and protection of privacy apply to the federal, territorial and municipal levels of government in Nunavut.

**The standing committee reiterates its recommendation** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on its progress to date in working with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, the Municipal Training Organization and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the issue of access to information and protection of privacy at the municipal level in Nunavut.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide specific details on the dates, attendance and outcomes of meetings that it has held to date with municipalities and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on its collaborative training initiatives involving municipal employees, Government Liaison Officers, the Municipal Training Organization and other parties, including:

- The number of training initiatives involving municipal employees; and
- The attendance of each training initiative.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in partnership with appropriate stakeholders, examine such options as introducing access to information and protection of privacy legislation that is specific to municipalities and/or having the territorial *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* apply to municipalities in a manner that would address such operational concerns as the ability of municipalities to respond to historical access requests.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a list of the specific options that the government is currently considering with respect to how it plans to apply the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to municipalities.

*and Protection of Privacy Act.* However, these regulations designate the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation as the “head of each housing authority and housing association” for the purpose of administering the legislation. The standing committee suggests that a similar approach with respect to District Education Authorities and the role of the Minister of Education might serve to help address capacity concerns.”

In her 2015-2016 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“In recent years there have been more and more complaints involving various education authorities, which are currently not public bodies under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Schools and Education Authorities not only use public money to deliver programs but they also collect significant amounts of sensitive personal information. While I have, to date, been able to address these issues indirectly by making the Department of Education responsible for access and privacy within the school system, it makes much more sense to make Education Authorities directly responsible for both access and privacy. There is clearly a current lack of awareness or concern about these issues, as was demonstrated by the facts in Review Recommendation 15-194 discussed above. This needs to change. It makes sense to include Education Authorities as public bodies under the Act.”

In its formal response to the standing committee’s November 4, 2015, report, the Government of Nunavut indicated that it has:

“... been in discussion with the Department of Education for a number of years regarding the inclusion of District Education Authorities (DEA) and the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut (CSFN) under the ATIPP Act. We fully support their inclusion, and believe consultation with the Information and Privacy Commissioner would be constructive and could help outline the consultations that will need to take place between the GN and the DEAs and the CSFN.”

It should also be noted that in its September 14, 2016, opening statement to the standing committee, the Government of Nunavut’s lead witnesses indicated that:

“Although the Department of Education has voluntarily complied with access to information requests for DEAs in the past, the GN is now undergoing the work to formally bring the DEAs under the ATIPP Act, similar to the approach taken with the inclusion of local housing organizations in 2015.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #5:**

**The Standing Committee reiterates its recommendation** that the Government of Nunavut formally consult with the Information and Privacy Commissioner concerning a practicable timetable for having the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* apply to District Education Authorities.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut formally consult with District Education Authorities as it works to determine a method by which the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* may apply to District Education Authorities.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed timetable by which it plans to complete consultations with each District Education Authority on this matter.

**Issue: Health-Specific Privacy Legislation**

An ongoing issue that has been raised in the context of annual hearings on the reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is the development of health-specific privacy legislation for Nunavut.

In her 2009-2010 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“Nunavut needs to begin the process of creating separate legislation to deal with privacy of health records. The country is charging into the era of electronic health records and electronic medical records. Every jurisdiction in Canada, other than Nunavut, has now either passed health specific privacy legislation or is developing such legislation to address the very real privacy concerns raised by electronic records. The issues are significant and complicated. All Canadian jurisdictions are talking about an integrated electronic health record system to allow any person in Canada to be able to access their electronic medical records, no matter where they happen to be in the country. The challenges of such a system are enormous, but there seems to be the will in most of the country to make it happen ...”

In its formal response to the standing committee’s November 4, 2015, report, the Government of Nunavut indicated that:

“In 2015-2016, the department began the necessary work to develop health-specific privacy legislation, including conducting a jurisdictional scan. In 2016-2017, the department will continue work on this file by developing a workplan and a committee to lead the work.”

In her 2015-2016 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“I understand that the Department of Health has started to work on health-specific privacy legislation, though I am not convinced that it is one of the department’s priorities. Work on this legislation is necessary, not only to provide appropriate privacy protections for personal health information, but also to allow the necessary use and disclosure of personal health information within the health system so as to allow for the provision of good health care services and to accommodate the use of an electronic health records management system.”

### **Standing Committee Recommendation #6:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on specific work that has been completed to date in relation to the development of health-specific privacy legislation in Nunavut.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a copy of the workplan by which it plans to develop health-specific privacy legislation in Nunavut.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed account of activities of the committee that has been formed to lead the government's work to develop health-specific privacy legislation in Nunavut, including the following information:

- Committee membership;
- Frequency of committee meetings;
- Any specific outcomes and planned actions resulting from committee meetings; and,
- Any specific recommendations that have been made by the committee.



**Issue: Protection of Personal Information Provided to Third Parties Under the *Adoption Act* and the *Child and Family Services Act***

The Auditor General of Canada's 2011 *Report to the Legislative Assembly on Children, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut* noted that:

"The [territorial] *Adoption Act* requires the Department to consult with the applicable Aboriginal organization for the child (that is, the Aboriginal organization of which the child or his or her parent is, or is eligible to be, a member) when a private adoption is taking place. The Department has interpreted consultation to be contact through written correspondence. As such, the Department writes to one of the three regional Inuit associations (which represent the interests of Inuit and are affiliated with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the organization that represents the rights and interests of *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* beneficiaries) to inform it that an adoption plan has been developed for an Inuk child to be privately adopted, usually by a non-Inuit family. This provides an opportunity for the Regional Inuit Association (RIA) to respond with an alternate plan of care for the child, should it choose to do so.

We found that the files we reviewed contained a copy of a letter to the RIA with the appropriate information. However, we were informed that the Department has never received a response from an RIA. Furthermore, when asked during the audit whether they were aware of this correspondence from the Department, two of the three RIAs had no knowledge of it. The Department has made little effort to follow up with the RIAs to determine why it has not heard back from them."

The territorial *Child and Family Services Act* also contains provisions concerning the role of Inuit organizations in relation to such areas as child protection.

Following its April 18, 2013, hearing on the 2011-2012 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Standing Committee reported back to the House on May 14, 2013. In its report, the Standing Committee recommended that the Government of Nunavut:

"... in partnership with the Information and Privacy Commissioner, work co-operatively with designated Inuit organizations to develop appropriate guidelines to ensure that safeguards are in place with respect to personal information that is provided concerning matters arising under the *Adoption Act* and the *Child and Family Services Act*."

This issue was revisited during the standing committee's September 2014 hearings on the Auditor General's 2014 *Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*, September 2014 hearings on the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut, and the September 2015 hearings of the 2014-2015 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

The standing committee provided a comprehensive set of recommendations on this issue in its November 4, 2015, report to the House.

In its June 7, 2016, *Final Report on the Department of Family Services' Current Privacy Safeguards and Next Steps in Drafting the Protocol for Handling Personal Information Provided to Third Parties Under the Adoption Act and the Child and Family Services Act* the Department of Family Services indicated that the following consultations had taken place:

“In February 2015, the Department of Family Services sought advice from the Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding the provisions critical to ensuring personal information is adequately protected. In July 2015, the Commissioner acknowledged the Department's letter and provided advice surrounding the consultation requirement in the *Adoption Act* and *Child and Family Services Act*. ... As such, the Commissioner provided a number of questions to consider in drafting a protocol that protects the privacy of individuals and families, while meeting the requirement for consultation with RIAs. ...

In December 2015, the Department met with two of the three RIAs to not only address privacy concerns related to the *Adoption Act* and *Child and Family Services Act*, but to also examine the role of RIAs in child protection and adoption proceedings. Representatives from Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Kivalliq Inuit Association participated in the meeting. Although representatives from Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) were not present, they provided comment through email regarding their current privacy safeguards.”

In its June 7, 2016, *Final Report on the Department of Family Services' Current Privacy Safeguards and Next Steps in Drafting the Protocol for Handling Personal Information Provided to Third Parties Under the Adoption Act and the Child and Family Services Act* the Department of Family Services also indicated that:

“The Department is coordinating further consultation with RIAs via teleconference during May 2016, to discuss current privacy safeguards and determine whether there has been further discussion within their organizations with respect to their role in child protection and adoption proceedings. ... A final consultation with RIAs regarding the Protocol is expected to occur September 2016.”

Finally, in its June 7, 2016, *Final Report on the Department of Family Services' Current Privacy Safeguards and Next Steps in Drafting the Protocol for Handling Personal Information Provided to Third Parties Under the Adoption Act and the Child and Family Services Act* the Department of Family Services indicated that:

“The Department will complete the Protocol for tabling during the 2017 Winter Sitting of the Legislative Assembly. This will allow enough time for the Department to adequately consult with the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and assist RIAs in understanding their involvement and subsequent responsibility in ensuring privacy safeguards are in place.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #7:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed update on the status of its work to develop a new *Protocol for Handling Personal Information Provided to Third Parties Under the Adoption Act and the Child and Family Services Act*.

**Issue: Disclosure of Government of Nunavut Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activities**

An ongoing issue that has been raised in the context of annual hearings on the reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is the public disclosure of information concerning the contracting, procurement and leasing activities of the Government of Nunavut's departments, Crown agencies and territorial corporations.

In her 2013-2014 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“Another issue that has come up on numerous occasions again this year, after a bit of a hiatus, is how the Government of Nunavut awards contracts, especially the large, multi-million dollar, multiple year contracts. While Nunavut has done some work with respect to proactive disclosure of these contracts, this government is far behind many provincial/territorial governments in disclosing information relating to contracts, particularly large contracts. While information is available online, the amount of information is sparse and, when it comes to the very large contracts, really not very helpful.

Nunavut is a small jurisdiction and everyone has a connection in one way or another. A very high percentage of individuals and companies rely, to a very large degree, on government contracts for their livelihood. For this reason, interest in the contracting process is very high and much higher than it is in other jurisdictions. The general public in Nunavut is generally far more aware about who is getting government contracts than in other parts of the country where the pool is larger. There are lots of questions about why certain individuals and businesses are successful in obtaining government contracts and others are not.

The public is, at times, going to question the hows and the whys of certain awards. The more of this information that can be made proactively available, the less room there is for any suggestion of favouritism, nepotism, fraud or other allegations of improper considerations. The larger the contract and the longer its duration, the more important it is to ensure that the process and the outcome are open. The Government of Nunavut, generally, can and should do a much better job of this.”

In her 2014-2015 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“In my last annual report, I commented on the issue of proactive disclosure of information with respect to government contracts. I commented in particular about the difficulty I had in finding information about contracts awarded ... It appears that there is far more information on line than I first thought, if you know where to look for it. I would encourage all public bodies to continue to improve their proactive disclosure of as much information as possible and to make finding that information intuitive and easy. Many Canadian jurisdictions are making progress in this, making records available in electronic form at a ‘one stop shop’ so that it can be found and downloaded with the least amount of effort on the part of the public.”

The standing committee notes that the government’s Contract Reporting Database provides information on the contracts that are issued on behalf of government departments. The standing committee applauds the government for making this online resource available to the public.

However, the standing committee notes that the government’s Contract Reporting Database does not provide information on contracts issued on behalf of Crown agencies and territorial corporations.

In its October 29, 2010, report on the review of the 2009-2010 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the standing committee reiterated a recommendation that the Government of Nunavut table annual reports in the Legislative Assembly on the contracting, procurement and leasing activities for all of its Crown agencies and territorial corporations. This recommendation was reiterated in its March 5, 2012, report on the review of the 2010-2011 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. This recommendation was reiterated in its May 14, 2013, report on the review of the 2011-2012 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. This recommendation was reiterated in its October 28, 2014, report on the review of the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

In its November 4, 2015, report on the review of the 2014-2015 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the standing committee recommended that:

“... the responsible Ministers of the Government of Nunavut table in the Legislative Assembly, in a timely manner, annual reports on the contracting, procurement and leasing activities for all of the government’s Crown agencies and territorial corporations, which are the:

- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Nunavut Development Corporation;
- Nunavut Housing Corporation;
- Qulliq Energy Corporation; and
- Nunavut Arctic College.”

The standing committee notes that this issue has been addressed in recent Ministerial *Letters of Expectation* to the Chairs of the boards of directors of Crown agencies and territorial corporations. On June 7, 2016, the Minister of Finance tabled the 2016-2017 *Letters of Expectation to Nunavut Crown Agencies*.

As of October 24, 2016, the most recent annual reports to have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the contracting, procurement and leasing activities of Crown agencies and territorial corporations were as follows:

- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation: 2015-2016 report tabled on October 21, 2016
- Nunavut Development Corporation: 2014-2015 report tabled on October 21, 2016
- Nunavut Housing Corporation: 2014-2015 report tabled on March 16, 2016
- Qulliq Energy Corporation: 2013-2014 report tabled on May 28, 2015
- Nunavut Arctic College: Not yet tabled

**Standing Committee Recommendation #8:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the responsible Ministers of the Government of Nunavut table in the Legislative Assembly, in a timely manner, annual reports on the contracting, procurement and leasing activities for all of the government’s Crown agencies and territorial corporations, which are the:

- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Nunavut Development Corporation;
- Nunavut Housing Corporation;
- Qulliq Energy Corporation; and
- Nunavut Arctic College.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, as part of its ongoing review of procurement, contracting and leasing practices, work to develop a method that will allow it to clearly differentiate between the approved “maximum values” of contracts and the actual expenditures undertaken pursuant to such contracts.

**Issue: Ability of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to Appeal a Decision Made by a Head of a Public Body Under Section 36 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act to the Nunavut Court of Justice**

An outstanding issue from prior years' annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly concerns her ability to appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

Section 37 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that:

Appeal of decision of head

37. (1) An applicant or a third party may appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

Notice of appeal

(2) An applicant or third party who wishes to appeal a decision of a head shall file a notice of appeal with the Nunavut Court of Justice and serve the notice on the head within 30 days after the day the appellant receives the written notice of the decision.

Written notice to third party

(3) A head who has refused an application for access to a record or part of a record shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receipt of the notice of appeal, give written notice of the appeal to any third party to whom a report was sent under paragraph 35(b).

Written notice to applicant

(4) A head who has granted an application for access to a record or part of a record shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receipt of the notice of appeal, give written notice of the appeal to the applicant.

Parties to appeal

(5) An applicant or a third party who has been given notice of an appeal under this section may appear as a party to the appeal.

Information and Privacy Commissioner not a party

(6) The Information and Privacy Commissioner is not a party to an appeal.

During her November 24, 2011, appearance before the standing committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“... I would like that power, to take something to court, because when I make a recommendation, it’s because that’s what I believe the Act says and if it’s not followed, there are some instances. I don’t think I take everything to court where my opinion wasn’t followed, but there are some instances where I think that it would have more impact, where we really need to know whether my interpretation is correct or the public body’s interpretation is correct, and a court can do that. So yes, I would love to have that option, many of my colleagues do, and it’s used within reason and on occasion to take governments to court on recommendations. I think it would be an extra tool in my toolbox and very useful.”

The standing committee has previously noted that systemic barriers, including financial resources, generally preclude private citizens from exercising their notional right under section 37 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to appeal a decision by a head of a public body to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

In its formal response to the standing committee’s November 4, 2015, report, the Government of Nunavut indicated that it is:

“... committed to the continual review of practices, procedures and legislation to ensure the access and privacy rights of Nunavummiut are protected. Our next consultation with the Information and Privacy Commissioner will include the right of the Commissioner to appeal a decision to the Nunavut Court of Justice.”

During her September 13, 2016, appearance before the standing committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“I can say that since I was last here, the Newfoundland and Labrador legislation has come into effect and I kind of like the way they do things there. I like the fact that the government is the one that has to take things to court if they don’t like the recommendations made. That wasn’t something I had thought of at the time.”

Members engaged in a broad dialogue with the Information and Privacy Commissioner concerning the advantages and disadvantages of Newfoundland and Labrador’s newly amended access to information legislation.



The standing committee notes that amendments to Newfoundland and Labrador's *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* came into force in June of 2015. This legislation provides that the province's Information and Privacy Commissioner may make a number of recommendations to a public body concerning access to information. This legislation also provides that, upon receipt of such a recommendation from the province's commissioner, a public body must make an application to the province's court if it decides not to comply with the recommendation.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #9:**

**The Standing Committee reiterates its recommendation** that the Government of Nunavut in its response to this report include a detailed timeline by which it plans to introduce amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* that would permit the Information and Privacy Commissioner to appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

**Issue: Information and Privacy Commissioner’s Discretion to Extend the Time for Requesting a Review**

An outstanding issue from prior years’ annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly concerns her ability to extend the time for requesting a review under the Act in certain circumstances.

In her 2009-2010 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

“... it would be my recommendation that the Information and Privacy Commissioner be given discretion to extend the time for requesting a review in appropriate circumstances, except in the case where the issue involves a third party objection to the disclosure of information. It may also be appropriate to consider extending the time for asking for a review from 30 days to 45 or 60 days.”

In its formal response to the standing committee’s November 4, 2015, report, the Government of Nunavut indicated that it is:

“... committed to the inclusion of this provision in the next revision of the ATIPP Act. Until the amendment has been completed, the GN will continue to accept reviews initiated by the Information and Privacy Commissioner that are received after the designated time period.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #10:**

**The Standing Committee reiterates its recommendation** that the Government of Nunavut in its response to this report include a detailed timeline by which it plans to introduce amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* that would address the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s recommendations concerning her ability to exercise discretion to extend the time for requesting a review under the Act in certain circumstances.

**Issue: Information and Privacy Commissioner’s Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

In 2015, the Information and Privacy Commissioner discontinued her private law practice in order to allow her to focus on her work as Information and Privacy Commissioner for both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

The standing committee is of the view that this will help enable the Information and Privacy Commissioner to engage in more training, education and outreach activities, as well as helping to ensure that her website is kept up-to-date on an ongoing basis.

In her 2014-2015 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that she had plans to:

“...begin to lay the groundwork for a full review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* with a view to modernizing the legislation and making it more responsive to today’s business realities.”

The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2014-2015 annual report also highlighted a number of thematic areas that she believes to be worthy of consideration during the review of the legislation:

- A legislated duty to document;
- Broadening and clarifying which public entities are covered by the Act;
- Limiting the ability of public bodies to extend the time for responding to access requests;
- Clarifying that disclosure is the rule, even where discretionary exemptions might apply;
- Establish[ing] clear accountability mechanisms for managing information at all steps of the digital information life cycle (collection, use, disclosure, retention and disposal) including proper monitoring and sanctions for non-compliance among other things;
- Requiring the completion of privacy impact assessments for all new projects undertaken by a public body, with a review by the Information and Privacy Commissioner; and
- Strengthening reporting requirements to the public with respect to the disclosure of personal information between public bodies and/or between public bodies and the private sector.

In her 2015-2016 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicates that:

“As noted, I will be preparing my own recommendations in this regard by the end of fiscal 2016-2017 and am happy to assist in any way I can with completing a full government review and the drafting of necessary comprehensive amendments.”

During her September 13, 2016, appearance before the standing committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“Another important task given to me by this Committee last year was to undertake a comprehensive review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and to provide my comments and recommendations for appropriate amendments. As noted in my annual report, this recommendation was both timely and welcome.

The Act is now some 20 years old and the way government does business has changed dramatically during that time. Most Canadian jurisdictions, in fact, have been going through a similar review in recent years.

It is important to me, being given the opportunity, that my review be comprehensive, thorough, and complete. As a result, while the project is well underway, I simply could not get it done by September 1, which was the date suggested by this Committee. My goal is to have it completed before the end of this fiscal year. My actual goal is really the end of this calendar year, but I’m also trying to be realistic and not promise beyond my means.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #11:**

**The Standing Committee reaffirms** its support for ensuring that a review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* includes consultation with the Information and Privacy Commissioner and looks forward to reviewing the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s comprehensive and specific recommendations for possible amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

**The Standing Committee notes** that the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s review should be submitted to the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for subsequent transmittal to the standing committee and tabling in the House.

## **Issue: Consultation with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit**

On March 24, 2003, the Government of Nunavut announced the establishment of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit (IQK), an external and non-governmental body with the mandate to monitor the government's initiatives to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into its laws, policies, programs, and services. As an advisory body to the government, the IQK meets with departmental officials on a regular basis to assess the government's initiatives related to the integration of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

On June 1, 2015, the Legislative Assembly passed a motion to amend the terms of reference of the standing committee to "explicitly address the integration of Inuit societal values and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the laws, policies, programs, and services of the Government of Nunavut, including the holding of public hearings on the annual reports of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit."

On September 23, 2015, representatives from the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit (IQK) made their first-ever appearance to present the most recent annual reports of that body.

In its November 4, 2015, report, the standing committee recommended that the Information and Privacy Commissioner meet with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in order to exchange perspectives on issues related to access to information and protection of privacy.

In her 2015-2016 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

"The Committee has also suggested that I meet in person with representatives from the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit at least once during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. By the time I received the Committee's report, it was late in the fiscal year and I was not able to follow up. I have, however, since reached out to the group and am hoping, in the next few months, to be able to arrange such a meeting."

### **Standing Committee Recommendation #12:**

**The Standing Committee reiterates its recommendation** that the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut meet in person with representatives from the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit in order to exchange perspectives on issues related to access to information and protection of privacy at the earliest practicable opportunity.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Information and Privacy Commissioner include in her respective annual report to the Legislative Assembly, a detailed account of her discussions with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.