



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 59

Friday, February 24, 2017

Pages 3296 – 3336

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

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

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

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

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

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	3296
Ministers' Statements	3296
Members' Statements	3299
Oral Questions.....	3306
Tabling of Documents	3321
First Reading of Bills	3321
Second Reading of Bills.....	3322
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	3323
Report of the Committee of the Whole	3335
Orders of the Day	3335

A.

Daily References

Friday, February 24, 2017 3296

B.

Ministers' Statements

238 – 4(3): Fur Freight Subsidy Pilot Project (Savikataaq) 3296

239 – 4(3): Update on Tourism Development (Ell-Kanayuk)..... 3296

240 – 4(3): Partnership with the Legislative Assembly on Simultaneous Interpreting Experiences
(Quassa)..... 3297

241 – 4(3): Qilaut, Nunavut's Inuktitut Songwriting Contest Winners (Kuksuk)..... 3298

242 – 4(3): Pan-Canadian Climate Change Framework (Taptuna)..... 3298

C.

Members' Statements

449 – 4(3): Chesterfield Inlet Qajaq Program (Sammurtok, T)..... 3299

450 – 4(3): Mamaqtuq Nanook Cooking Club (Angnakak)..... 3300

451 – 4(3): Baker Lake Long-term Service Awards (Mikkungwak) 3300

452 – 4(3): Marine Infrastructure (Qirngnuq) 3301

453 – 4(3): Recognition of Firefighter Pauloosie Qaumagiaq (Joanasie) 3302

454 – 4(3): The Nunavut Agreement Not Being Implemented (Keyootak)..... 3302

455 – 4(3): Celebrating Black History Month (Okalik) 3304

456 – 4(3): Snowmobile Shipped to Wrong Community (Mike)..... 3304

457 – 4(3): Ordering Vehicle Parts from Ontario (Kuksuk) 3305

D.

Oral Questions

602 – 4(3): Construction and Purchase of New Public and Staff Housing Units (Sammurtok, A)
..... 3306

603 – 4(3): Staff Housing for Nurses (Shooyook) 3308

604 – 4(3): Language Services at Qikiqtani General Hospital (Angnakak)..... 3310

605 – 4(3): Marine Infrastructure (Qirngnuq) 3313

606 – 4(3): Staff Housing for Health Care Professionals (Akoak)..... 3314

607 – 4(3): Status of New Housing Construction in Sanikiluaq (Rumbolt)..... 3316

608 – 4(3): Kimmirut Airport (Joanasie)..... 3317

609 – 4(3): Bullying in Nunavut Schools (Mikkungwak)..... 3318

E.

Tabling of Documents

259 – 4(3): Clyde River Integrated Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plans (Keyootak)
..... 3321

F.

Bills

Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016 – First Reading..... 3322

Bill 33 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017 –
First Reading..... 3322

Bill 35 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018 – First Reading..... 3322

Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016 – Second Reading .. 3322

Bill 33 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017 –
Second Reading 3323

Bill 35 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018 – Second Reading .. 3323

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Health – Consideration in
Committee..... 3324

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, February 24, 2017

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 8:59*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>> *Prayer*

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

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 238 – 4(3): Fur Freight Subsidy Pilot Project**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to announce that my department is introducing a new pilot project which will subsidize the

cost of shipping raw wolf pelts to buyers outside of Nunavut.

This project will allow hunters across Nunavut to ship undried wolf pelts to buyers such as taxidermists and fur dressers in the south. Further, this pilot project will help us to determine if and how the program will be implemented more broadly. This pilot project will run until March 31, 2018.

By introducing the freight subsidy program, we hope to encourage and support sustainable development in the territory and give Nunavut harvesters an opportunity to achieve a steady income through hunting and trapping. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Minister's Statement 239 – 4(3): Update on Tourism Development

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, I am pleased to provide my colleagues with an update on tourism development responsibilities in the territory.

As my colleagues will recall, last fall I announced changes to the roles played by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and Nunavut Tourism in support of the territory's tourism sector.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Tourism continues to advocate for their members and will remain a vital resource for the territory's tourism industry. The department has increased its support for tourism development initiatives, including initiatives in the areas of product development, marketing, culture, and the arts.

Mr. Speaker, the department is in the process of creating a new destination marketing branch for the territory and is also assuming responsibility for those visitor centre operations which were previously under Nunavut Tourism.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Nunavut Tourism's CEO, Mr. Kevin Kelly, for his support in implementing these changes. Under its new mandate, Nunavut Tourism can focus on advocating for and growing its membership, which is composed of large and small outfitters, hotels, lodges, and other tourism businesses.

Mr. Speaker, tourism is a sector with great potential in many Nunavut communities, and these changes will help us realize that potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize for my error. I said Environment, but it's Economic Development. I apologize.

(interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 240 – 4(3):
Partnership with the Legislative
Assembly on Simultaneous
Interpreting Experiences**

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House this morning to inform my fellow members of the progress and great initiatives that are being taken by the Interpreter/Translator Program.

The program recently had an extensive review with stakeholders, graduates, and staff. The courses were revised to provide the students in the program the best experience while they are in their diploma program.

In the winter term NAC has partnered with the Legislative of Assembly to provide the five second year students the opportunity to experience simultaneous interpreting in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the students in the Interpreter/Translator Program are trained to interpret professionally by applying a variety of complex skills and processes to mentally transpose and verbalize the meaning of the original message into the target language and to translate professionally in accordance with international certified interpreter standards.

Mr. Speaker and fellow members, help me welcome to the Legislative Assembly the following students and their instructors:

- Peter Aningmiuq, Pangnirtung

- Toby Otak, Igloolik
- Joanna Qammaniq, Iqaluit
- Maata Pudlat, Cape Dorset
- Leah Kilabuk, Pangnirtung
- Letia Qiatsuk - Instructor
- Joe Otokiak - Instructor

Mr. Speaker, I know we all share appreciation for their choice of study. We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 241 – 4(3):
Qilaut, Nunavut's Inuktitut
Songwriting Contest Winners**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Good morning to the people of Nunavut, Arviat, and Whale Cove. Good morning to my fellow colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am rising today to report on Qilaut, Nunavut's annual Inuktitut songwriting contest. This program celebrates Nunavut's vibrant Inuktitut music scene and promotes the use of Inuktitut in all areas of daily life. By singing in Inuktitut, Nunavummiut are contributing to strengthen and enhance the use of Inuktitut in our daily life.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage received a total of 18 submissions from Nunavummiut by the deadline of November 4 of 2016 with children's songs theme.

It was not an easy task to select the top best songs. So many good songs were indeed submitted. I would like to particularly thank the judges, being themselves well-known artists, for their time: Celina Kalluk, Rosemary Meyok, and Gideonie Joamie.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to announce the top three winning songs:

- 1st place: song titled 786 by Becky Han and Tracy May;
- 2nd place: Qaariaq by Becky Han and Tracy May, and
- 3rd place goes to the song called Paurit Qajaqurit by Looee Arreak.

Mr. Speaker, the top ten songs have been recorded professionally. A CD launch is planned this evening, February 24, at 8:00 p.m. at the Nakasuk School.

I would like to thank all entrants for their participation, and invite my colleagues to enjoy Inuktitut music this weekend and all year round. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 242 – 4(3): Pan-
Canadian Climate Change
Framework**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning to my colleagues. Good morning to Kuglukturmiut and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to update my colleagues on the status of the pan-Canadian climate change framework and the important work surrounding initiatives in this area.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, First Ministers met on December 9, 2016 and finalized the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*. Every part of Canada must stand together to combat climate change if we are to see real progress. Nunavut is not a significant producer of greenhouse gases. However, we directly feel the impacts of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the role of carbon pricing in the *Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change*. Given Nunavut's particular circumstances, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut are working to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory for its economy, communities, and people, including energy costs. This will be an important consideration and one we will be sure to weigh in as we develop, implement, and administer a carbon tax in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we need the support of the federal government and action by all provinces if we are to make real progress. As a government, we are also ready to do our part, and I look forward to productive discussions and actions as we address climate change in Canada together. 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 Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 449 – 4(3): Chesterfield Inlet Qajaq Program

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House of another positive initiative taking place in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I had the pleasure of writing a letter of support for the Qajaq Program in Chesterfield Inlet.

This long-standing initiative in the community has been led by my constituent, Glen Brocklebank, who is a past recipient of a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

The program brings together elders and youth in a manner that supports the intergenerational teaching of knowledge and values.

Mr. Speaker, the Qajaq Program is looking forward to its 11th year on the water. I have been advised that in addition to repairing a number of older *qajait* in the fleet, participants are looking forward to building a number of new boats.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this positive initiative. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 450 – 4(3):
Mamaqtuq Nanook Cooking Club**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the activities of the Mamaqtuq Nanook Cooking Club, which is run out of Nanook School in Apex.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third year that the free after-school program has been running. It was started by Apex resident Kerry McCluskey as a way to help teach Niaqunnguut children how to cook healthy meals from scratch and on a tight budget. Every Friday, Kerry and Kootoo Alainga work with 20 to 30 children - that's a lot of children in the kitchen - to prepare and then eat a nutritious meal. This year the club has an added emphasis on literacy with the children keeping track of recipes to take home in their own cookbooks.

Mr. Speaker, the children have had many guest speakers and cooks so far this year, including Qajaaq Ellsworth and his famous *palaugaaq*, which I haven't had yet, Franco Buscemi and Taha Tabish of the Qanak group, and later on today Donika Jones will be visiting the club to teach the children how to make jerk chicken and festival bread in recognition of Black History Month.

Mr. Speaker, with a small budget provided under the Brighter Futures program, this club is a success by any standard and deserves our applause.

Mr. Speaker, as the club also relies on the generosity, participation, and support of community residents and businesses, the children make sure to give back to the community. They have visited the Qayuqtuvik Food Centre and the Uquutaq Men's Shelter to prepare food for the clients there.

I encourage my colleagues to drop by the Mamaqtuq Nanook Cooking Club at Nanook School. If you time your visit just right, I know they will invite you to even stay for a meal. A warning though: you will need to sing for your supper.

>> *Laughter*

Be prepared to speak to the club participants about your role as an MLA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 451 – 4(3):
Baker Lake Long-term Service
Awards**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to recognize the dedication and hard work of our government employees in Baker Lake.

Shortly after our last sitting I was honoured to be present at the long-term service awards ceremony in Baker Lake. I would like to recognize those Baker Lake residents who have provided important services to our community.

Mr. Speaker, for working in the Department of Education for five years, I acknowledge the service of Sonia Osbourne, Sarah Iksiktaaryuk, and Shelly Pepler.

A longest-serving employee of the Department of Education is Uliut-Elizabeth Iksiktaaryuk. She has worked for 40 years as a teacher and she was also my Inuktitut teacher.

I would also like to acknowledge an employee of the Department of Culture and Heritage for 10 years, Sarah Sevoga, as well as employees of the Department of Health for 10 years, Robyn Priva and Gretchen Rama.

Working in the Department of Community and Government Services for five years is David Penney.

Also working in the Department of Community and Government Services for 15 years are Leah Aupaluktuq and Kyle Seeley.

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

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

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

I was very pleased that many individuals were recognized. An employee who was

recognized for working at the Qulliq Energy Corporation for 10 years is Ryan Ramaglia. Also working at the Qulliq Energy Corporation for 15 years are Anna Aittauq, Katherine Bodner, Douglas Iglookyouak, Craig Simailak, Ruth Stoddart, Ruth Tapatai, and Rosie Iyago.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy and proud that I was able to attend the awards ceremony in Baker Lake when they recognized employees for their dedication and service to the residents of Baker Lake and Nunavut. I congratulate all of them this morning. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 452 – 4(3):
Marine Infrastructure**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk as well as the residents of Taloyoak, my colleagues, and our Premier.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about marine infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, Kugaaruk's annual sealift is uniquely challenging. Our location and lack of marine infrastructure has meant that the community's annual sealift is normally first routed to Nanisivik by a commercial carrier and then transported to the community by the Coast Guard.

In 2014 severe ice conditions prevented a significant volume of cargo from being [delivered] to the community, and supplies were diverted down south and subsequently airlifted to the community.

Better marine infrastructure for the community would help to address community needs.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Community Transportation Initiatives Program provides up to \$300,000 for projects that support local community marine infrastructure.

In the 2015-16 fiscal year the municipality received \$32,000 for dredging and harbour repairs.

I encourage the municipality to work with the department to identify what resources would be required to achieve significant improvements to the community's marine infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 453 – 4(3):
Recognition of Firefighter
Pauloosie Qaumagiaq**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say how happy and proud I am of the recent recognition of the fire chief in Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, Pauloosie Qaumagiaq was recognized on February 14 for his many years of service as a firefighter and received his 30-year service medal. He also received certificates from the Governor General of Canada and the Nunavut government for 20 and 30 years respectively for his service.

I would also like to recognize the volunteer firefighters in Nunavut who give their time and energy to provide this service. I thank the Office of the Fire Marshal and the mayor of Cape Dorset for recognizing Pauloosie Qaumagiaq. I ask you to join me in congratulating Pauloosie Qaumagiaq and all the volunteer firefighters in Nunavut for their service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 454 – 4(3): The
Nunavut Agreement Not Being
Implemented**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the residents of my community, my constituents in Qikiqtarjuaq, and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise a concern I've had in some ways.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, we all know that this government was created with the passage of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. Many of us here were part of the struggle for the creation

of Nunavut in order to achieve self-government. We must never forget that the land claims agreement enabled us to be here today.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: are we all in support of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*? Mr. Speaker, maybe there is some underlying doubt and things that are hindering the expectations of the Inuit. It seems we pay the least attention to those who voted for Nunavut, including those who are no longer with us. Some no longer want to participate in the voting process.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of the expectations of Inuit in favour of Nunavut's creation being ignored, we instead spend more time on climate change that we hear so much about in the news. Mr. Speaker, our constituents' expectations for Nunavut are not being expressed.

Mr. Speaker, our colleague here who also is our elder struggles hard to have *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and capability incorporated within government. The issues that the distinguished member raises are the things that Nunavummiut clamoured for with the creation of Nunavut. Many are tired of waiting for overdue action.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Uqqummiut is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Keyootak, please proceed.

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

Mr. Speaker, we worked extremely hard to try to get Nunavut so that Inuit can make positive progress within government. We did not want Nunavut without a government; we wanted it to have a government.

One of the reasons I know and perhaps all of us clamoured for Nunavut was so that... . We were part of the NWT, which had its own legislature before we got Nunavut. We had our own representatives in the NWT legislature. Because Inuit are marine people, except for Baker Lake, the regulations dealing with marine life are not designed for Inuit. That is why Inuit wanted the creation of Nunavut so that they can establish their own laws which are more tailored to our marine lifestyle and more Inuit-friendly.

The other thing that I understood why people wanted Nunavut is that Inuit knowledge and abilities were not part of the government's structure. This provided the main thrust for our push to create Nunavut. I believe we forget that all too often today. Inuit who voted for Nunavut should be given more priority in appreciation for Nunavut's establishment.

In addition, we hear nowadays about many people who don't want to vote in elections anymore, saying that nothing will be achieved once more. This is sadly regrettable. We know that in earlier days turnout used to be very high in hopes that their votes will count. Today the voter turnout has dramatically dropped, with many feeling remorse that

their votes don't produce expected results.

We need to be more responsive to that sentiment as lawmakers and make true the words that our own elder here continually insists, which is to fully entrench Inuit knowledge and abilities into the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 455 – 4(3):
Celebrating Black History Month**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my fellow Pauloosie.

It's Friday today and occasionally we tell humorous stories on Fridays. You all know I really support my Montreal Canadiens, but today I try to wear only blue because I'm tired of being beaten. I thought maybe if I wear blue today, we will win more, but we will see. I'm trying to be very blue in colour today.

When I was a teenager in our community, my older brother Joellie got his first job at the store and he was happy because there were very few jobs in our community. After he started working, it was the very first time he ever gave me a Christmas present. When I opened it, it was a Toronto Maple Leaf jacket. I told him, "I can't wear that. It's that team. I can't really support that colour. I only support the Montreal Canadiens." He then told me, "I'll never give you another present again." Up to

this day he has never given me another present. Although they are more than capable most of the time, they need assistance every now and then.

Here in our community this coming Sunday we will be asked to attend an event as neighbours at the Cadet Hall. The local black community will be celebrating their history and wish to share their celebration with us. I have experienced nothing but good things whenever I associate with the black community. Their celebration will start at 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and it's free. They will be presenting their ways of dancing, tell stories, and offer their own special food. I invite all of you because they will be welcoming us and we thank them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 456 – 4(3):
Snowmobile Shipped to Wrong
Community**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, people of Nunavut, residents of my community, and my colleagues. To the people who are grieving in Pangnirtung, you are in my thoughts, especially my maternal aunts.

I rise today as I recently mentioned that during last Christmas we had some bad news. Normally as we head home around Christmastime, we go to be with our family and go hunting, which is an important pastime.

I have a skidoo in Iqaluit and I tried to send it to Pangnirtung because I would want to hunt and I would want to have a skidoo while I was there. I had to come back to Iqaluit in January, yet that snowmobile never arrived in Pangnirtung.

I tried to go to the cargo to pick up my snowmobile at the warehouse. When I requested it, they told me it wasn't there and that it wasn't in their possession, so it was lost. They finally tracked it down in Hall Beach.

>> *Laughter*

It was addressed to Pangnirtung. I asked for it because even around here in Iqaluit I hunt once in a while when I have the opportunity.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays?
(interpretation) There are no nays. Mr. Johnny Mike, please proceed.

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

When they finally found it, it was in Hall Beach and in possession of the Northern Store there. I thought maybe I'm not the only one who has experienced this. People sometimes lose things. Some people going from Pangnirtung to Iqaluit have tried to bring country food and their cargo has gone missing. It's just less than an hour flight from Pangnirtung to Iqaluit and they have lost cargo.

I also found out sometimes when we're leaving Iqaluit, we have to fly to Qikiqtarjuaq to get to Pangnirtung. If we're going to Iqaluit from Pangnirtung, we sometimes have to go to Clyde River to get to Iqaluit. Our flight that is less than an hour if it's a direct flight turns into three hours.

I also discovered on my own and the airline executives are aware that there was a medical travel patient from Iqaluit who was deplaned in Qikiqtarjuaq. I notified the airline executives of that. We have been apologized for that and I'm grateful for that. It is something that you don't want to see happen again. I'm very happy that on May 17, 2017 the airlines will go back to the old way. With the new system there will probably be more lost cargo and more confusion. I hope that these kinds of incidents don't happen again.

I really lost a major hunting item at that time because I like to hunt and eat fresh meat from the land and sea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat and Whale Cove, Mr. George Kuksuk.

**Member's Statement 457 – 4(3):
Ordering Vehicle Parts from
Ontario**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today is Friday and listening to my colleagues here, it's good when you hear humorous stories. When we get closer to the weekend, we like to lighten things up and laugh with each other since we do a

lot of serious work.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague right beside me just reminded me, so I would like to tell a short story. Sometimes I look for cheap car parts and I found what I was looking for in Ontario while I was in Arviat. I told them they would have to send it to Arviat and I told them the route. It would be trucked from Winnipeg to Churchill.

I was expecting it and after two weeks there was no news. I tried to check on it to see where my car part was now. I called the distributor and they were going to check into it and get right back to me. I said yes and they called me about two days later. They asked, “Are you near Aklavik?”

>> *Laughter*

I asked them, “What?” “Is your community close to Aklavik?” “No, that’s on the other side of the country (interpretation ends) from where I am. (interpretation) I’m in Hudson Bay and Aklavik is over there on the other side of Canada.” They said that the part that I ordered is over there now.

>> *Laughter*

They told me, “Don’t worry. You don’t have to pay any more. It will be sent through Edmonton.” Mr. Speaker, I didn’t expect to hear that at all. It’s just a car part that I ordered. It was quite heavy and it needed to be trucked first. It ended up in Aklavik and it was so far from me.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member for Arviat and Whale Cove is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I don’t hear any nays. Mr. Kuksuk, please proceed.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, my colleagues.

In conclusion, as we’re coming to this weekend, there’s a youth hockey tournament in the Kivalliq that started yesterday evening. There are teams from Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, and other communities.

I was informed last night that the teams from Whale Cove and Arviat both won their first games. I’m very proud of the Arviat and Whale Cove hockey teams. I hope that you will be just fine and have a great competition in Rankin Inlet with the other communities in the Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 602 – 4(3): Construction and Purchase of New Public and Staff Housing Units

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Good morning, people

of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut, as well as my colleagues.

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

Earlier this year *News/North* reported that the Nunavut Housing Corporation recently spent \$14.3 million to purchase 62 new housing units in Iqaluit from a private developer.

For the benefit of the listening public, can the minister clearly explain today why this purchase did not require approval by the Legislative Assembly through a supplementary appropriation request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the member's question, it's true that we had purchased the housing units in Iqaluit from a private developer. They dealt with this in accordance with prescribed procedures. The minister of the day dealt with that.

Once I became a minister, I saw the process of how this was purchased. There are procedures that we follow in the government or the housing corporation. Whenever we have to purchase private units, there is a policy that guides us in how we go about it. That is what we followed to purchase private homes in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before the purchase of the 62 new units took place, the Nunavut Housing Corporation already planned to construct 20 new public housing units in Iqaluit between now and the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year. If my math is correct, this is a total of 82 new public and staff housing units for the capital. However, not a single new public or staff housing unit is planned for Rankin Inlet during this same time period.

Mr. Speaker, even 10 percent of this total number would be a real help for Rankin Inlet. Will the minister commit to reallocating a portion of this total so that Rankin can see at least some new public or staff housing construction take place over the next two years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the question of Rankin Inlet getting units, we at the Nunavut Housing Corporation have continually stated that we follow the allocation methodology where housing units are allocated to the communities in the most need. We still use that methodology today. That process is used to determine which communities will be allocated housing in partnership with the local housing authorities. Mr. Speaker, for example, in my colleague's constituency community of Rankin Inlet, their need is at 30 percent compared to all other

communities in Nunavut.

In regard to the other question, if some units can be reallocated to Rankin Inlet, we will have to follow another process. Mr. Speaker, we have look at another policy carefully when we take that process. The policy requires that we look at the allocations and which communities have what and what their need level is. We will examine what effect it would have if their allocation was transferred elsewhere. We can't just transfer units under this policy. We would have to look closely at the need level in the community that would have their allocation transferred. We would also have to reassess those needs between the communities where the transfer would take place. The overarching rule is which community has the most need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The minister of the housing corporation indicated that Rankin Inlet required 30 percent, but if he remembers right, I had an argument with him last March and it was with the listing and information that I got from the local housing association. It was 37 percent.

The Legislative Assembly approved the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital estimates during our recent fall sitting, shortly before the Nunavut Housing Corporation's purchase of the 62 new units in Iqaluit was finalized.

I have a very simple question for the minister: why did he not mention at that time that the Nunavut Housing Corporation was planning to make such a major purchase of new housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Mr. Speaker, again my answer is very simple like I answered the member earlier.

(interpretation) We followed our policy to the fullest, the same purchasing policy used by the GN. That's the only response I can provide to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 603 – 4(3): Staff Housing for Nurses

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

As the minister is aware, Arctic Bay's new health centre will be opening very soon. This is very good news. However, I have heard concerns about the need to ensure that there is adequate staff housing in the community for nurses at the community health centre.

Can the minister confirm how many staff housing units will be available for nurses once the new health centre opens? 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. It brings up an opportunity to talk about some of the ways we have managed to save money in the construction for the health centre in Arctic Bay.

What we did was we removed the staff housing from the actual health centre infrastructure. Now there are five staff housing units that are being constructed right beside the health centre that is designated for medical staff housing. I don't have the information in front of me of how many staff housing units are already in use, but these would be five units that are being specifically constructed with the assistance of the Nunavut Housing Corporation for medical staff housing specifically for that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Minister of Health for his response. It is important that our nurses, who work long hours under great pressure, have proper housing. Will any of Arctic Bay's nurses be required to live in shared housing units once the new health centre opens? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As all members are aware,

when we're talking about housing across the territory and as to the previous question, the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation recognizes how critical this need is. When we're trying to find a balance as a government of creating staff housing and public housing, there are strains on both sides of it. On occasion we are forced as a department to request our staff to share accommodations.

With these five units coming on board, I can't answer the member's question directly. It depends on the staffing levels. We're doing a lot of great work into making sure that we're hiring indeterminate staff for our community health centres, but there are occasions where we're still forced to use casual nurses or casual staff in addition to, on some occasion, agency nurses.

The housing needs fluctuate in some communities on a monthly basis, but we are working very hard with our HR division to stabilize our indeterminate nurses so that we have a very clear picture of what our housing needs are on an ongoing basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. Can the minister explain how the Department of Health works with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to determine staff housing needs for nurses and other essential health care workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All government departments, but especially the Department of Health, work very closely with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on its staff allocations.

What the housing corporation has done, along with the collaboration of other GN departments, is create a priority ranking for staff housing. Fortunately for our communities, when we're talking about critical needs and critical health services, a lot of our employees are ranked as priority one. We do want to make sure that we have essential services in the communities.

Thankfully, with the cooperation of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and other government departments, it is recognized that the health and safety of the communities are directly impacted by health care providers in the community and have rightfully designated a higher priority to those people for allocation of housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 604 – 4(3): Language Services at Qikiqtani General Hospital

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to keep the health minister on the... I'll ask him some more questions because we didn't ask him enough yesterday.

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

Mr. Speaker, on May 30, 2016 the report of Nunavut's Languages Commissioner on the systemic investigation of official language services at the Qikiqtani General Hospital was tabled. The report noted a number of concerns with the provision of services at the hospital in a linguistically appropriate manner.

Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention actually quite a few times by some of my constituents that there is often a lack of Inuktitut interpreting at the hospital, especially for in-patients who have to stay there for extended periods of time.

Can the minister clarify what measures are in place to ensure that Inuktitut language services, from the recording on the hospital's voicemail to the number of interpreters who are employed to assist with patient interactions, are adequate and meet our Inuit language needs? 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. The member brings up a very important issue when we're dealing with health care and some of the language barriers that encompass that very passionate and very important topic.

With regard to specific numbers of interpreters that are available at the QGH here in Iqaluit, the numbers do fluctuate. We have to rely upon casual workers. I'm sure all members of the public, especially here the legislature, realize

how important interpretation services are and what a high demand that service is.

I know we work very closely with Nunavut Arctic College to make sure that people are trained and able to work. There are four modules offered through Nunavut Arctic College on medical-specific terminology on different categories. I don't have that direct information in front of me on what those categories are.

When we're dealing with interpretation services in a health care setting, there's a lot of unfamiliar terminology even to people who are very fluent in Inuktitut. It's a continual challenge to make sure that the staff we have are familiar with terminology so that they can express in a clear, concise manner to our patients to make sure that they are aware and understand the circumstances.

I understand that I'm not directly answering the member's question with regard to whether they are sufficient. Obviously we are continuously working to fill additional positions with regard to interpretive services and translation services at the QGH. I can say we're continuing to work on it. It's a work in progress. There are gaps and I recognize that and it is something that I have been dealing with the department on a continual basis.

For people that are listening out there, we've had interpretive students here in the legislature this week, so it shows that there are more and more people that are recognizing that. It is a real positive career that people can have a long-time career in and adapt to different techniques, terminology, and different dialects.

Are we satisfied where we are right now? No, but we are working very diligently to make sure that all people in Nunavut get the service in the language of their choice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. We look forward to seeing more qualified Inuktitut interpreters at the hospital.

In saying that, I want to also speak about the French language services. It is unclear what French language services are currently available at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. The Languages Commissioner's report highlights a number of cases where francophone patients felt their health was put at risk due to the lack of French language services.

Can the minister clearly describe what French language services are currently available for francophone clients at the Qikiqtani General Hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly thank her for raising that. Again, this is a very important issue. One of the challenges that we have with providing French language services is it can be a more infrequent request than Inuktitut services.

We do have French-speaking staff on hand that, as part of their contribution to

the health care system, do provide interpretive services. We're in the process of hiring somebody with French language ability with our patient relations office which can assist us in French language delivery to deal with patient concerns.

Specifically within the QGH, again, it is a challenge to allocate the resources to have somebody there full time to provide French language services when it's not as frequent of a request. We do rely on existing staff to provide and supplement the translation services for French languages. Again, it's an ongoing challenge with the department and with the QGH. It's something that we are aware of and we are working to find the right balance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. Mr. Speaker, the Languages Commissioner's report regarding the Qikiqtani General Hospital states that between 2000 and 2011 six language-related concerns were raised. The low number of concerns registered was thought to be as a result of communication barriers, patients not knowing their rights to file concerns, and/or perhaps due to cultural factors.

Can the minister tell the House today how and what procedures are used by the Qikiqtani General Hospital when concerns are raised regarding language services and how many have been raised to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the exact number to date; I don't have that information in front of me. I will search out that information and have a discussion with the member.

With regard to the specific steps that we have taken, the creation of the patient relations office has really offset the escalation of a lot of our complaints and a lot of issues within the health care service delivery. That office has been paramount in the collaboration with patients and families, with the department of identifying issues and concerns that are brought forward so that they don't often get escalated, as an example, to the Office of the Languages Commissioner. A lot of those concerns can be dealt with beforehand before it escalates.

That is one of the critical components, I think, of what has helped improve the patient satisfaction. There are still issues. As the minister responsible, when I get concerns, a vast majority of them can be dealt with directly at the patient relations office and do get dealt with through there. That is a crutch that I rely upon almost daily in most weeks.

The new executive director of the Qikiqtani General Hospital, who has come on board very recently, has made dramatic positive impacts to the facility itself of staff morale and engagement. People's ideas are being listened to on how to better the service that we provide to Iqalumiut and people from other communities that rely upon the health

service delivery here.

I know I'm painting with kind of a broad brush here, but things are improving dramatically every day, especially since that 2011 report, through those numbers. I can say with all confidence that the conditions are more open and more conducive to positive relationships with our patients there right now. Personally I don't get as many complaints as I'm sure former ministers may have had. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 605 – 4(3): Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

In my Member's Statement today I talked about the need for improved marine infrastructure for the community of Kugaaruk.

The *Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy* requires that an annual call letter be sent to municipalities inviting proposals for funding.

Can the minister confirm when will this year's call letter be sent to municipalities? 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. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for that question. Last year the call letter for the program went out in March. This year we're expecting the call letter to be out around that period as well, but we still have to go through our funding proposal. We're proposing to do a one-time increase of \$2.5 million to this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The maximum contribution for funding under the *Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy* is \$300,000. In cases where a community identifies the need for new marine infrastructure that exceeds that amount, what is the process to have the project included in the government's capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Right now, with the budget being increased, the program policy is being reviewed and it will be clearer during this session on how they can apply for this.

I want to tell my colleague that yesterday the mayor and SAO met with our staff. The member's constituents were clearly informed as to how they can apply for funding. They were asked to apply to this program for an amount

of up to \$600,000 to be spent over a period of two to three years for that particular project.

They were told what to expect and they were told to go ahead with the proposal for (interpretation ends) breakwater upgrades, lay down area for sealift, (interpretation) and that the department would work with them on these areas for his constituents' concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for clarifying that. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, both communities in my constituency have benefited from funding under the Community Transportation Initiatives Program and we appreciate this support. When will the minister be tabling the next annual report on the administration of this program? 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. In regard to the 2015-16 budget, if it's possible and because we have to get approval first, once the process has been done, we will be tabling the report as soon as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa

Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Question 606 – 4(3): Staff Housing for Health Care Professionals

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Uqhuqtuurmiut and my colleagues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

I want to begin by thanking the minister for recently taking the time to visit Gjoa Haven. It was good for him to have the opportunity to meet with a number of community residents and health care workers.

As I'm sure the minister will agree, mental health care services are very important. When the minister was in Gjoa Haven, I appreciated his willingness to look into the staff housing situation facing our health care workers, including our mental health worker.

Mr. Speaker, our frontline workers are so important. They do work for the government and they also look at patients or keep them when they need help.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister update me today on his department's efforts to ensure that all of Gjoa Haven's health care staff have adequate housing? 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 want to thank the member for inviting me to his community of Gjoa

Haven. I truly enjoyed my time there. It's a fantastic community. There were many great people I met while I was there. Some of the member's constituents were able to bring concerns directly to my attention and some issues were resolved from that.

Specifically with regard to staff housing for health care staff, as I had mentioned in an earlier response, we work very closely with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the recognition of the importance of staff housing for health care professionals.

I met with the individual that the member is talking about with the mental health team there. I was very impressed by the commitment and engagement with community members that that individual has. I doubt that he's watching right now because he's a very busy person, but I do want to emphatically thank him for the service that he is providing to the community.

We are working very closely with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I've had some correspondence with them earlier this week, within the last few days, on allocation of some units that are coming online from the construction completion of the school there. I'm looking forward to being able to provide health care employees some very good news in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. You have answered this question, but how does the Department of Health work with the Nunavut

Housing Corporation when it comes to allocating existing staff housing units to health care workers and other staff?

Would it help by saying that our mental health worker is living in a hotel at this time and also sees 5 to 15 patients per day and is on-call 24 hours a day? Would that help to get him a staff housing unit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I can't thank the person working in Gjoa Haven right now enough for the patience that they've had with the housing challenge that we have throughout the territory.

On this specific case in Gjoa Haven, we're working very closely, like I said, with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to work out arrangements to take on some additional units. That is in the process right now. As a matter of a fact, I just sent an enquiry to my deputy minister yesterday to check on the status of the housing allocation for that specific employee.

I'm waiting to hear a response on where that individual would fit on the priority ranking, but I'm very hopeful that with the units that are coming online, we will be able to find more permanent accommodations for that employee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 607 – 4(3): Status of New Housing Construction in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was asking about the 15 new public housing units and two staff housing units that were scheduled to be constructed in Sanikiluaq in the coming months.

I have noticed the public tenders being in the paper in the past few weeks, but nothing for my community. I asked the minister when this public tender would go out for my community for public housing. His response was that he didn't have the information at the time and he would get back to me.

My question today is: is the minister in a position to confirm when the Nunavut Housing Corporation's tender for the construction of Sanikiluaq's new housing units will be issued? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, like I said, I would get back to him once I get that information. I have that information and I can tell the member that all the NHC projects in Sanikiluaq are coming out today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his quick response on my concern.

For my second question, as the minister is well aware, I have constantly spoken about the need for new housing for Sanikiluaq, so the 22 new units will be very much welcomed to the community.

Public housing contracts for Sanikiluaq had a history in the past of having a higher Inuit labour content to help with the high unemployment rate in the community.

Can the minister confirm what the minimum Inuit labour content will be for this year's construction work in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry; I cannot give him that information in detail. Like any projects that we award to contractors in Nunavut through the NHC, in the contract agreements we have in place where the contractors have to have a registered apprentice where that person can work with the company or the contractor to get more hours to get their certificate and so on.

We also encourage every contractor to hire locally and work with the local association in trying to work with the local employment for all of our projects in Nunavut. That also applies to contracts that will be awarded in

Sanikiluaq and other communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two days ago my colleague from Gjoa Haven noted that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's recently issued tender for housing construction in that community had set aside funding for training of Inuit workers.

Can the minister indicate how much funding will be set aside for local training as part of Sanikiluaq's construction tender? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that exact number, but I can get back to the member once I have that number that the member is asking about, the dollar number. I will get back to him when I get that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 608 – 4(3): Kimmirut Airport

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

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased that two ministers were able to go to Kimmirut

yesterday, Mr. Quassa and Mr. Kuksuk. I also appreciate that Minister Ell-Kanayuk was also able to go to Kimmirut recently. As the minister is also very much aware, the community desperately needs a new airport, but that will likely only happen with federal support.

Mr. Speaker, I reviewed with interest the minister's response to the written question that was recently asked by my colleague from Uqqummiut.

My question for the minister is this: was a proposal for a new Kimmirut airport one of the 19 specific infrastructure projects that were considered by the Government of Nunavut's Interdepartmental Committee on Capital Planning in December of 2014 for potentially submitting to the federal government for consideration under the New Building Canada Fund? 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 that question. I can say that we went to go see Kimmirut's airport and we had a meeting with the hamlet council in August 2015. The hamlet indicated where that new airstrip and air terminal should be located.

We made a submission to the federal government for several infrastructure projects and the Kimmirut Airport was one of them. We recognize that it is one of the hardest places to land in Nunavut

and the airlines know that. The need to have it upgraded and relocated is clearly identified. There were many requests for infrastructure projects, but it is unfortunate that the Kimmirut Airport was not approved. Even though that is the case, our department is looking at capital infrastructure dollars for Kimmirut in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the benefit of my constituents who are following us today, can the minister clearly explain how the territorial government decides which specific transportation projects to submit to the federal government for funding consideration? 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 my colleague for that question. My department reviews and outlines what the priorities are for transportation capital projects that are planned every year. We produce documents called substantiation sheets. It is submitted to the Department of Finance and they make considerations on the many different capital project proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the

recommendations contained in the final report of the federal *Canada Transportation Act* Review Panel was that the federal government should consider establishing a new “Northern Airports Capital Assistance Program.” Can the minister indicate what discussions she has had with the federal Minister of Transport concerning this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. With respect to his question, I can say that Minister Garneau came to Iqaluit last year in July. I met with my fellow transportation ministers in southern Canada as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 609 – 4(3): Bullying in Nunavut Schools

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

The day before yesterday I asked some questions and I asked at the end of the day about bullying. This obviously affects students. The students that go to school in Baker Lake, the children and teenagers, deserve support. This is something we have to deal with as a

community.

When I was asking my final question, the minister responded by saying that the local DEAs are responsible for policies dealing with bullying. I know without a doubt that the local DEAs are not present in schools on a daily basis. They meet only once or twice a month and at other times when it's necessary.

However, I would like to ask the minister about bullying. When bullying occurs, the teachers and the principal deal with these on a daily basis or whenever it occurs. My colleague from the High Arctic is always asking how *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* can be used more when teachers or the principal deal with bullying. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking questions about what we all feel strongly about. People use different terms for bullying. A word in Inuktitut that I learned recently is *uumisuktuq* (hating). I spoke about *saalaksarasuarniq*, which means to attempt to dominate others, and the need to reduce its prevalence.

You're totally correct in saying that the local DEAs make their own policies, such as *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* (having good interpersonal relationships). They make different policies that have to be followed.

What is also taught in the schools is called *Aulajaaqtut*. Through that, we use

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit about bullying and dealing with hatred. Through *Aulajaaqtut*, the high school students are taught *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and they talk about how it's important to have good interpersonal relationships and the fact that bullying should not be happening and they should have good relationships with other people. That is what is taught through *Aulajaaqtut*.

As I stated, all communities have DEAs that are responsible for making policies. Each community has most of those policies and the school principal is required to follow these DEA policies. Through *Aulajaaqtut*, we follow *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and it is fully debated at our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hear what the minister is saying and I agree with him and the fact that we have to deal with different dialects and terms.

While this matter on bullying and personal hatred is being worked, as he stated, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is used in the schools and the local DEAs are administering that. While that's the case, the local teachers are trained about teaching matters, how to apply *Aulajaaqtut*, and other things.

A question I would like to pose to the Minister of Education is: who are the actual teachers? I know that the minister should know as well most principals come from the south to come and work in Nunavut's schools. While that's the

case and they have to carefully use *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, who teaches the principals about those things so that they can be properly trained when they are the leaders in the schools? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recognize elders in all of our schools to try to promote *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* more in our schools. All communities have identified elders that can be used to go and talk about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in the schools. I know it is done the same way in Baker Lake. The local DEAs identify the elders who will provide *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. That is how elders are involved.

As I also stated, with the *Aulajaaqtut* program, we use the Inuit culture and ways of mitigating bullying to try to lessen it or to see how we can stop it altogether and why bullying should be not happening.

The local DEAs have a foundation on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* when they make up their policies. They always base them on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and that's what they do. There are things like that.

We also have student support assistants in our schools. We call them SSAs or counsellors. Those workers promote *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and they are usually Inuit workers that do that in our schools.

Lastly the school principals have to follow the policies made by the local

district education authorities along the lines of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. They make their policies, as I said, following *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and the principals have to follow that properly.

That's how they try to promote *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and teach that about preventing hatred and bullying of other people and the fact that it should be stopped. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is an extremely important matter and I know that the minister and my colleagues have strong feelings about it because the youth are our future.

We lost part of the middle school in Baker Lake because bullying was part of the reason. Bullying and showing hatred was really apparent there and it really affected attendance. While that's the case, with people who show hatred and bully and people who are victims of that, there are two sides; there are two types of people. How can the local DEAs work on this? I know it's obvious they have policies that they have to follow under the *Education Act*. The minister previously stated that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is being used properly.

However, if the youth are apprehended by social services, then they could be taken for months. Using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, how can they be helped if an elder could talk to them or something? Thank you very much, Mr.

Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this issue is very important, I thank you for your question. We had a day last week to recognize anti-bullying everywhere. Let's also remember that bullying does not occur only in schools and we have to deal with bullying elsewhere it can occur, such as at home. Parents should be involved when we deal with bullying cases. The parents have to be involved because this is not just a school problem; this problem can occur outside of the school, which we hear often. For that reason, they use *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* as their foundation.

Our schools provide assistance programs for the teachers to support the students and there are student support assistants and counselling services are provided. Those are the frontline workers. If the problem is more critical or serious, then there are people who work outside of the school like social workers that are used as a last resort if they cannot resolve the issue within the school using traditional knowledge. They use the policy to deal with the issue using traditional knowledge. However, the only time they go outside of the school for services is when there is no other choice.

I would like to reiterate that as parents, we should talk to our children, reprimand and educate them to lessen bullying in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, the time for question period

has expired. Moving on with the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 259 – 4(3): Clyde River Integrated Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plans

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table this document today. As I noted earlier this week, I recently had the opportunity to consult with the residents and community leaders in Clyde River. I am pleased to table today an update to Clyde River's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plans. I encourage all members to review this with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 18: First Reading of Bills

**Bill 32 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
5, 2015-2016 – First Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 32, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 33 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-
2017 – First Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 33, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 35 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
1, 2017-2018 – First Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 35, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 19: Second Reading of Bills

**Bill 32 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
5, 2015-2016 – Second Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 32, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

motion is carried and Bill 32 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 33 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations and
Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-
2017 – Second Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 33, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 33 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 35 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
1, 2017-2018 – Second Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 35, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital)*

Act, No. 1, 2017-2018, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 35 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 20. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 32, 33, 34, and 35 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 10-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 10:54 and
Committee resumed at 11:07*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Welcome back. Fellow Inuit, welcome to the proceedings.

Just a reminder to members and guests, being Friday, we have translators. You can come up for air once in a while. Thank you.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 32, 33, 34, and 35. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 34?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Health if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: If the committee will allow, yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. 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. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have the Deputy Minister of the Department of Health, Colleen Stockley, and to my left, Executive Director of Corporate Services Greg Babstock. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Yesterday we were at page H-5. Public Health. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$18,973,000. Mr. Joanasic.

Mr. Joanasic: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Minister Hickes and your officials. Under Public Health I don't have too many questions, but I guess for clarification first of all, can I get some understanding?

Under Health Protection you have environmental health officers and they do inspections on public places. I noted in your business plan on page 125, it says, "unsafe housing." That caught my eye.

How does the department work with the housing corporation if there's a house that's unfit for occupation, whether it's for mould issues? How does the department go about inspecting public housing in relation to health protection? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the member. It's my understanding that when environmental health officers inspect private domiciles, it is usually at the request of either the homeowner, the landlord, or the Nunavut Housing Corporation to deal with a specific issue. The way I understand it, there's not a

regular annual inspection *per se* as there would be in public facilities.

I guess an example might be, like the member mentioned, if there's mould discovered in a unit, to determine what type of mould, whether it would provide a health hazard. That would be an example of how we would work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation or a landlord to determine the safety of the dwelling. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. In addition to that, can he clarify? He mentioned about private homes. Does this also not cover public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way I understand it and I could stand to be corrected, the way I interpreted it was that any building in the territory could request an inspection from an environmental health officer if there are safety concerns with that dwelling or residence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let's say a public housing tenant feels like their unit might be unfit for occupation. Do they go through your environmental health officers themselves or do they coordinate through their local housing association or authority? Can you explain how that would work?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Initially their first point of contact would be with the local housing organization or the Nunavut Housing Corporation. That being said, if they feel unsatisfied with the response, they could have an opportunity to contact the environmental health officer to request further follow-up. Initially we work with local housing organization or the Nunavut Housing Corporation to address any concerns brought forward to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for his response. Moving away from that topic, on population health, the minister talked a bit about some recent trends. Let's say, we have heard syphilis is on the rise and about five years ago there was an outbreak. Can the minister give us some...? Are there other trends in population health that are on the radar for the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to chlamydia, gonorrhoea has also been a concern with regard to sexual health.

When we're talking about different concerns from a public health standpoint, TB is still an ongoing concern in this day and age in the territory. We've had a well publicized

recent outbreak of pertussis, which put a lot of strain on the health care system.

As always, this time of the year we deal with influenza outbreaks in different communities where we want to make sure that, through education opportunities, we talk about influenza vaccines that are available. Again, as brought up in the last sitting of this legislature, RSV is an ongoing concern.

We had very recent dialogue with partners to continue examinations on mitigating practices that we could take as recently as just in the last month. There's an ongoing study with Health and Public Health to take a look again at opportunities for vaccinations and an analysis of cases, whether they're increasing, decreasing, or what additional methods we can take as a public health agency to help mitigate some of those concerns, as just some primary examples, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for his response. It was mentioned yesterday about the Maternal and Child Health Strategy. I'm not sure if this falls under that, but is fetal alcohol spectrum disorder part of that? Does the department have a handle on our population in relation to FASD? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about FASD and maternal health, it's a very important component of our education campaign to make sure that parents or

people becoming parents are aware that what they're putting in their bodies, they're putting it into their baby's bodies. We want to make sure that all people are aware and they're cognizant of it. I know myself, as a parent, you want to make sure that your child has as many opportunities and positive outcomes in their life. When you're talking about FASD particularly, it can put some initial challenges in a child's life that, in my opinion, are unnecessary to put on a child.

As an example, the Department of Health sits on a steering committee with Canada Northwest FASD Partnership and there's work supported in four specific strategic priorities of preconception care, youth justice, addictions and mental health, and early childhood education.

We are very engaged on a national level and specifics to north. We want to make sure that we're improving supports available to the children and their families. We also are in the process of facilitating FASD training and knowledge transfer in collaboration with Public Health Agency of Canada.

Again, it's an obvious concern. If we can look at addressing FASD particularly as a topic, it would alleviate a lot of challenges in a child's life going forward; education, employment opportunities, mental health and well-being, community health and well-being. It's an important topic that we work very hard from an education standpoint. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I look forward to the department addressing FASD from a diagnosis and treatment point of view. I think it would have a great impact moving forward.

On another thing, Mr. Okalik talked a bit about tobacco reduction and your strategy. I want to ask the minister: what is the department's position on smoking with a baby on your back? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been a topic amongst our smoking cessation campaigns of smoking anywhere in the vicinity of children. A baby in an amauti is in the vicinity of somebody who is smoking. I would strongly recommend that people, if they choose to smoke, would smoke away from their children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Minister Hickes. I agree with you. I think the department can put forward an extra public education campaign for the population to move away from having mothers and/or fathers who have a baby on their back to avoid smoking at all costs. I don't think it is at all healthy for the baby and the individual themselves actually.

(interpretation) Moving on to something else, (interpretation ends) the other topic I wanted to... . On page 125 of your business plan, Population Health

Information, you guys gather statistics on all kinds of health information, including the utilization of health centres, doctor visits, in and out of the territory hospitalizations.

Does your department differentiate between whether these visits and/or... ? Let's say, keeping in mind we have a large medical travel budget for scheduled services, but also emergencies, does your department differentiate between what is preventable in these cases and/or that aren't preventable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is more along the lines of preventative injury in the workplace or living opportunities.

We wouldn't have the resources to be able to track every individual health centre or hospital visit or emergency care. To be able to track that data specifically of what was preventable, there is even some question in what is preventable. Did somebody crash on their snowmobile? It's preventable if they wouldn't have gotten on it, but you don't always know what conditions arose to create that crash, as an example.

There are different things that we look at mainly like communicable diseases, cancer, and tracking of those types of illnesses or issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. In moving forward, maybe the

department start looking at that. Maybe if we have some more emphasis on prevention, we could target a lot of health issues that are dealt with by the department. We hear every year that medical travel, both scheduled and emergency, it seems to be growing. I just wanted to make that comment and that's all for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's comment and that is a priority and a focus of the Department of Health. I had mentioned yesterday or it might have been the day before that we're just in the final stages of our negotiations with our Northern Wellness Agreement. A priority of that agreement is prevention and wellness, so it's a recognized priority for the Department of Health. I thank the member for his support on those initiatives. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on the list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. I would like to start off by asking a question on page 126 of your business plan. You talk about the Northern Wellness Agreement, formally known as the Health Portfolio Contribution Agreement. To begin, can you tell us what that means? What is this agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been an ongoing agreement that we've had with the federal government. A lot of it is under the First Nations and Inuit Health

Branch. It was a ten-year plan that's just in the process of expiring and right now we're looking at a new agreement on a five-year going forward. Basically it helps develop community wellness programs. We work closely with Health Canada to make sure that we're continuing stable support for community wellness plans.

My apologies, Mr. Chairman, I just got handed a note. The previous agreement was five years. The new agreement is ten years. I had it backwards earlier.

When we're looking at different discussions, like I said, it's still in the process of being finalized on what the specific programming is. In general, like I said, we want to make sure that our wellness programs are sustainable and we want to make sure that capacity that gets built behind this programming is something that can be stable and again, with a focus on prevention and wellness in general but community wellness.

The Department of Health has just completed an evaluation of Nunavut's community-based wellness programs, which has guided improvements to further administration of those program dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us who did these negotiations on behalf of the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Government

of Nunavut there are a number of people as part of the team. It's not just with the Government of Nunavut. NTI is at the table to make sure that we are addressing community initiatives and issues. We work very closely with Health Canada. When the MOU is signed, it's by all three parties: Health Canada, NTI, and the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does NTI get money out of this agreement as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I missed a part of that question. Could the member rephrase it or repeat it?

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly. Would NTI get money out of this agreement as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the intention of their engagement is to make sure that we are addressing community initiatives as well as just, again, like I talked yesterday, how important IQ factors are taken into consideration with this programming. Not only as a department do we work with Culture and Heritage, but we work with NTI to make sure that we're bringing forward a good governing structure using all three parties at the

table to make sure that we're providing the programs and the needs of the community are being address for community and personal wellness. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go on to something else. On A-IV-2, Detail of Projects Funded under Third-party Agreements, one of the things that I noted here is the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. We got a bit of money last year, \$118,000, and this year there is nothing. Since we're all fighting cancer and it seems to be a growing disease in Nunavut, why is there no money there now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we put these documents together, we were using the information we had available at that time. The federal government still hasn't put out their budget for this year, so we're not aware of what programs are going to be available or how some of the factors can be taken into consideration.

Some have ongoing funding and others are one-offs or they have sunset or expiry dates where we renegotiate. We anticipate that upon getting informed of what the federal budget is going to be and what programs are available, I can assure the member that we work very hard to make sure that we access third party funds on behalf of the Government of Nunavut and our clientele, the residents of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it's safe to say that dollars coming in under the Northern Wellness Agreement and perhaps other third party funding like the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer funds, because they're not known, they're going to be added then to the revenue than what you have stated here. It's on top of that. Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would depend on whether it's Vote 1 or Vote 4. If you look in our pages and our budgets, there are monies that aren't approved in the legislature that were funded directly through third parties. If it comes through the Department of Finance through the revenue stream, then we would get it through them through Vote 1 funding. It depends on what we're getting and how we're getting it. There are variables associated with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I was just making a reference to the overall picture. We don't really know what the overall picture looks like right now, right? There are other negotiations that are going to be happening.

In speaking about prevention of cancer, I think colon cancer seems to be really on the rise. I don't know statistically if that would be supported, but it seems to be to me. It says on 127 of your business plan, "Begin development on a colorectal cancer screening program." Is this not

being done now? I seem to hear of so many people who have that kind of cancer. Is it because we're not doing the screening and we're only beginning to look at developing one?

It makes me wonder why we haven't started. I know there is so much need that we have in Nunavut and it's not always easy, but I wonder why we're starting so late with this one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know I talked about this a little bit yesterday. Statistic-wise the member is correct. We are much higher than the national average in cases.

We are limited, especially at the community level, of what type of screening can be done. Like I had mentioned yesterday, we're looking at increased access for one to colonoscopy as an example. There's not so much screening as diagnoses being done right now. That's one of the things that we're hoping to identify programs going forward.

That being said, our priority and what my priority has been directed to the department has been to deal with our list right now of people that are waiting for diagnoses, colonoscopies and things of that nature. The waiting list is quite long right now. I've had correspondence from people who don't feel comfortable if they're a high-risk individual through their family history or whatever the case may be, that they're dissatisfied with the length of the wait time right now. That's something that we have been working very closely with the department to

make sure that we are addressing it and we are taking steps to get through that list.

We are also looking at different testing that can be done at home through different stool testing programs that we are exploring right now, especially with people in different communities. The delivery process of the specimens and things like that are a little bit more complex than they would be in other jurisdictions. It is something that we are aware of and we're working towards making improvements in that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I bring it to the House today because really, I actually know some people that have died from it because it was diagnosed so late and I see the numbers are growing. When you talk about you want to address it, you're taking steps to address it. What are you doing? What you are going to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies on the quick, little delay.

We're working very closely with Health Canada on this. In addition, one of the things, as I mentioned, we've got two operating rooms located here at the hospital and traditionally only one has been in use. It's one of the things that I'm directing the department to look at opening that second operating room now that we have a second surgeon here with anaesthesiology to make sure that people

have access to colonoscopy at a faster rate to get through the waiting list.

Like I had mentioned, we are looking at home kits that are available in other places with the screening process to get stool samples. We're still exploring some of the logistics behind making sure that those samples don't get spoiled or how they can be transferred to the lab for testing. We're very active in working amongst the department with the resources we have, but also in discussions with Health Canada on how we can either accelerate or supplement some of our programming right now.

We've got a Vote 4 budget right now that we're getting in fiscal 2016-17 to develop cancer screening policies and programs, as well as actual screening. When I say we're working on it, it's not just lip service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this a type of screening that you said you do at the hospital? You have a second operating room, so they can offer this type of screening. Am I to understand there's no way you can do it in the community, eh? You need specialized equipment that only a hospital has? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize; I was just getting confirmation of some details. At the community level there is, as I said, availability through stool sampling and things like that which would determine an elevated risk, so then they would go

in for further examination such as a colonoscopy. There are stages of screening that can be done and that's where we're looking at standardizing so that we can make a more effective campaign. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I've just got one last question on this topic. How many people are on the wait list to get a colonoscopy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know when I first got into this chair, it was around 300 and I know it's dramatically down from that. I don't have the exact number with me today, but we have been making progress on this topic. It was one of the first directives that I talked to my deputy minister about when I took over and became aware of this waiting list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes I wonder why it takes a minister to give that directive for something like that to happen. When you start to see the numbers like that, obviously something needs addressing.

Just to go on to page 127 of your business plan, it says, "Implement Phase 1 of the Community Health Development Coordinators and the Academic Enhancement Program." Can you just tell me a little bit what that means? What program is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: My apologies, Mr. Chairman. I think I missed the very beginning of what program she's talking about. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going from page 127, fourth bullet down from the top, "...the Community Health Development Coordinators and the Academic Enhancement Program." If you could tell us a little bit more about what that entails. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying that. There are a number of different training programs that we have and I just wanted to make sure that I was talking about the right one.

When we're discussing the educational upgrade program, it's for Nunavut Inuit public health staff. We want to make sure that we're developing an upgrade program to support Inuit and Inuit employment in public health positions across the territory. This is in direct response to Article 23 from the NLCA, which mandates the government to look at impediments in place and to look at ways to mitigate those. We want to continue to develop initiatives to increase Inuit employment. We want to make sure that we're getting the representative level.

Like I had mentioned, I believe, the first day here when we were talking about Inuit employment numbers, we're on

target right now or a little even above target. Personally I'm not satisfied with that. We need to continue programs such as this so that when we've got people that... We have amended academic entry into certain positions, an example, a Bachelor's Degree in Health Sciences to a High School Diploma, but willingness for candidates to commit to these educational upgrade programs so that they can learn as they develop on the job. We've got 19 students enrolled in the preparatory course just from October to December of 2016. Of those 19, 15 students completed the course.

Those are some types of initiatives that we want to not just focus because we need to make sure we have Inuit employment, but it's not like when we're dealing with health. You've got to make sure that you've got somebody that's capable of doing that work. We're putting as many options available to people so that there are resources available to help them develop into the roles so that they can not only assist themselves but so they can be very productive to the health care team. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. It sounds like great things are going on in that area. I think you should do a minister's statement on it. Share the good news with everybody. We need more good news these days.

My last question is on page 126 of the last bullet. You say, "Monitor the implementation activities of the updated Tobacco Reduction Strategy." I always wonder how do you really determine and what kind of time frame do you need to

determine if a strategy is working or not. For example, the number of people smoking in Nunavut has only continued to rise, yet I know that the department does have some initiatives that they have in place and have for some time.

An updated one, does that mean that you have changed the strategy that you had? If you can just elaborate a little bit more on what is going on in that area. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. I think there are times where we don't celebrate enough of what we are doing. One thing that I have learned since taking over this role and this responsibility that was entrusted to me by the Premier is it seems there are always fires to be put out. Sometimes we get caught dealing with issues and making sure that we are working on the day-to-day needs that need to be addressed that we forget to take a step back sometimes and celebrate the successes.

I do have some ministers' statements coming up in the next couple of weeks that will highlight some of the successes we're doing, but I appreciate the member's recognition because there really is a lot of good things that the Department of Health is and has been doing. It's not just since I've gotten there. I'm just one small part of the guidance and direction of the department. Previous ministers have pushed a number of great initiatives and the staff. We've got a really good senior management team right now that is really continuing to push the boundaries

and to push the limits of the system to its maximum effectiveness. I appreciate that for one. Thanks for indulging me on that, Mr. Chairman.

With regard to tobacco reduction, any time we have a strategy like that, it is always a fluid type document where there may be best practices that are identified, things that are working or aren't working so that we can adjust our programming and our education focuses on. Specifically when we look at measurables, one of the few ways we have to measure is by the amount of tobacco that is sold in the territory. That is where we would see our results and through community consultations and visits.

Community wellness groups have put on different smoking cessation programs. We've got a fantastic team here in Iqaluit that has put on campaigns here in the legislature. There are no-smoking grounds at QGH and a number of different initiatives where we're still fighting the fight on tobacco reduction. We're targeting right now a lot of youth so that people don't start smoking. It's difficult to stop once you have started.

There is still the smoking cessation programming available to people of all ages across the territory. There are different methods, patches and gums and things like that, that are provided to people. It's an important initiative and we have a really great team that is working very hard to make progress in that, but it's a difficult one to measure other than, again, community consultations or through numbers of tobacco sales. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of more questions. I do recognize the clock up there.

Has the department ever... ? This is something I don't know anything about but I have just heard about, but it's the issue of radon. Apparently it causes or the target is lung cancer. I was told by somebody that we have the highest lung cancer rates in Nunavut in Iqaluit. Is that true? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickers.

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, when we're talking about the budget process, I just don't have that level of detail in front of me right now. If the member wanted to follow up with me, I'm sure that is something I can get more information on. We just don't have that readily available here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recognizing the clock, I would like to move a motion 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.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table. Thank you.

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

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 34 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation is meeting in the Nanuq Boardroom this afternoon at half past one and also tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the same boardroom.

Orders of the Day for February 27:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 32
 - Bill 33
 - Bill 34
 - Bill 35
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Monday, February 27, at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:54*

