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Official Report

**DAY 64**

**Monday, March 6, 2017**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(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-Niaqunnguut)

**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)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Monday, March 6, 2017**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickee, 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. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>House commenced at 13:29

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

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

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 262 – 4(3):  
Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of my community, my fellow Inuit, and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with my fellow members that there is an interactive Inuktitut language application for tablets and smart phones aimed at helping early readers. This application is called *Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit*.

Mr. Speaker, this application, or more well known as "app," is designed to work on tablets and smart phones operating on iTunes and Android platforms, and computer web browsers. *Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit* helps preschool readers learn Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, early learning is the foundation of lifelong literacy. *Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit* captures the interest of preschoolers and gives them a head start in developing their Inuktitut language skills.

Mr. Speaker, *Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit* exposes preschool children to both Roman orthography and syllabics. To support this important work, my department is developing additional modules. To promote the use of this app, my department is developing Twitter messages and a slider for my department's website.

Mr. Speaker, this application is available for free in various app stores and I encourage Nunavummiut to download it to their phones, tablets, and computers.

Mr. Speaker, improving literacy outcomes has been and will continue to remain a priority for my department, and I ask my fellow members to help us increase public awareness on *Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 263 – 4(3):  
National Social Work Month**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and residents of my community.

Mr. Speaker, every March individuals and organizations across Canada observe National Social Work Month in recognition of the meaningful contributions social workers make to the health, safety, and well-being of their communities.

My department currently has 50 community social service workers in all three regions of Nunavut. We would like to express our gratitude for their hard work and dedication, and encourage others, especially our youth, to consider a career in this important field.

Mr. Speaker, the work of our community social service workers is guided by *Pijitsirniq* (serving and providing for family and community), *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* (respecting others, relationships and caring for people), and *Aajiiqatigiinni* (decision-making through discussion and consensus).

The Department of Family Services has been collaborating with community organizations to develop specific community social service worker training aimed to increase parental engagement and community development work.

Mr. Speaker, National Social Work Month gives us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate our social workers for everything they do throughout the year. Our social workers work closely with children, youth, and families to support them during difficult situations and to help them to grow and succeed. On behalf of my department, I would like to extend a huge thank you to our community social service workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Languages, Mr. George Kuksuk.

**Minister's Statement 264 – 4(3): IUT's  
Language Assessments**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good day and good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut and colleagues. Have a good day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to announce that Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit will be finalizing the Inuktut language assessment tools in five different dialects by the end of this fiscal year.

The IUT, with the assistance of Pirurvik Centre, created the assessments in Inuinaqtun, Nattilingmiutit, Paallirmiutit, (interpretation) North Baffin, and South Baffin dialects.

(interpretation ends) In the coming weeks between 50 and 60 people of all fluency levels will be tested to pilot the assessments and the final draft will be made available. These tests will help



validate and improve the assessment tools.

Mr. Speaker, my cabinet colleagues and I are committed to continue working with Taiguusiliuqtiit to strengthen and enhance the use of Inuktut and in particular to promote the highest quality of Inuktut usage in our workplaces. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Minister's Statement 265 – 4(3): Mine Development**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**

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

I rise today to report on the success of our growing mining industry. Mr. Speaker, there are now three mines in operation in Nunavut, one in each region of our territory.

In the Kivalliq, with the approval of the Vault Pit Extension, operations at the Meadowbank gold mine have been extended until early 2019. Agnico Eagle Mines recently announced over \$1.2 billion in spending to move forward with the approved Meliadine gold mine north of Rankin Inlet, and with the Whale Tail deposit, which if approved will even further extend the Meadowbank mine life.

In the Qikiqtaaluk iron ore mining commenced at Mary River in 2014, with the first shipment of ore in 2015. Baffinland is working towards their phase 2 expansion which would almost triple the mine's output.

(interpretation ends) In the Kitikmeot earlier in February TMAC Resources poured its first gold bar at the Doris North gold mine. TMAC is also working towards development of the Madrid and Boston deposits located south of Doris North. These deposits could represent another 20 years of mining jobs in the Kitikmeot.

The opening of three mines over a seven-year period, in which commodity prices have generally been fluctuating, is an impressive achievement.

Mr. Speaker, we are well on our way to building a strong and sustainable mining industry that contributes to a high and sustainable quality of life for all Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

#### **Minister's Statement 266 – 4(3): Piquusilirivvik – Enhanced Program with Pan-territorial Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to inform my fellow members of the progress and great initiatives that are being taken by

Piqqusilirivvik. The program continues to grow and be refined with every offering. Students have the opportunity to meet with elders and knowledgeable practitioners.

During this winter/spring term students will participate in a range of activities, including the opportunity to learn traditional drum dancing techniques from the Kitikmeot, participate in an elders week with visiting elders from Cape Dorset who will share with staff and students their knowledge of *ajaraq*, traditional games, stories and legends.

As always, the students participate in land trips. During this term they will travel to Arviqtujuq to learn travel and hunting techniques and stay in a *qarmaq* that was built in a previous Piqqusilirivvik program. This trip is meant to help prepare students and establish some of the basics in regard to travel on the land in winter and to prepare for a three-week trip to Igloolik.

Not only will the students gain experience in land skills by going to Igloolik, but the trip completes a cycle of learning where students are going to pick up *igunaq* that has been curing over the last few months. The *igunaq* was prepared with walrus meat caught during a Piqqusilirivvik hunt in Igloolik last July. That hunt and the *igunaq* preparation were documented in photos and video that are being turned into learning resources for Piqqusilirivvik programming. Students and instructors will bring the *igunaq* back to Clyde River where it will be shared with the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Piqqusilirivvik program is not only unique; it is an inspirational

experience with life-changing outcomes for the students who participate. This program is a true reflection of our culture, our identity and history.

Through this program and the experiences acquired, we are providing opportunities for Nunavummiut to learn and maintain our traditional knowledge and share it in a contemporary setting. 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 Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

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

#### **Member's Statement 492 – 4(3): Passing of His Worship David Aksawnee**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with sorrow that I rise today to inform the House of the sudden passing this weekend of His Worship David Aksawnee, Mayor of Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with his family today.

Mr. Speaker, David Aksawnee was a well-respected leader in the community and throughout the Kivalliq. David held many important responsibilities during his many years of public service. As a lifelong hunter, David's knowledge and experience contributed greatly to the work of the community's HTO and a number regional wildlife management bodies.

Mr. Speaker, David was a strong proponent of a strong local economy for

the people of Baker Lake. His leadership in the community contributed greatly to the progress that we have accomplished in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, David was a natural communicator, who was as comfortable negotiating with senior mining executives from Toronto as he was talking with an elder.

Mr. Speaker, David provided strong leadership at the municipal level and he was not afraid to make tough decisions. His wisdom and experience will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in paying tribute to the late David Aksawnee, His Worship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 493 – 4(3):  
Appreciation for Community  
Search and Rescue Teams**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My condolences to the Aksawnee family in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my appreciation for the search and rescue team in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday a young hunter did not make it home as scheduled. Without delay our community's search and rescue team came together and began looking for that hunter. The team worked late into Saturday evening and worked

throughout Sunday despite the high winds and blowing snow.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to report that the team found the hunter early this morning and he has been returned home in good health. I would like to thank all those involved in bringing our young hunter back to the community.

Mr. Speaker, members of these search and rescue teams highlight the strength in each of our communities. These individuals sacrifice their time and their own safety to ensure the well-being of their neighbours.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in showing our appreciation for all search and rescue members across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 494 – 4(3):  
Update on Situation in Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to first speak to what happened last week on February 27, where a person passed away in Taloyoak, but I didn't mention the name and I apologize for that. The deceased person's name was Noah Taqtu, so I now mention the name and I also wanted it understood that his name is now on record.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update the House on the situation in Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I was back in the community from Thursday to Friday. Mr. Speaker, I met with the municipal council on Friday morning and held a public meeting in the afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, officials from a number of the government's departments were in the community last week and I very much appreciate the quick response from the government to this situation.

As you know, the priority is to identify temporary space that can be used to hold classes until such time as portable classrooms can be brought into the community.

Mr. Speaker, despite the pain that the community is presently enduring, people are united. I want to express my appreciation to everyone in the community who is contributing to the effort. For example, the Koomiut Co-op is working to ship new classroom supplies to the community as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to formally and publicly thank all of the volunteers with Kugaaruk's fire department and other first responders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 495 – 4(3):  
Recognizing the Tincombe Family**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everybody today to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for the hospitality and generosity shown by Harold and Myrtle Tincombe of Lachine, Quebec, who welcomed so many medical patients from the north into their home throughout the '50s and '60s.

Mr. Speaker, the Tincombes began their association with Inuit medical clients when they adopted the late Jaco Mark of Ivujivik, who was struck with polio.

They also provided a home for the late Evie Ikidluak, who could no longer live in the severe cold climate of her home in Cape Smith near today's Akulivik due to tuberculosis.

Mr. Speaker, in those days there were no such services as the Larga Boarding Home. Thankfully Harold and Myrtle Tincombe opened their home to travellers from the north, making their stays less lonely and stressful.

Mr. Speaker, I myself experienced their kindness as a small child in 1966 when I had to be medevaced to Montreal because of a terrible eye injury. In those days you didn't get a family escort to travel with you, even if you were only four years old. The Tincombes took care of me, away from my family and parents, for the four months that I needed treatment.

Mr. Speaker, my father has often told me that the Tincombes would take

missionaries travelling from the Arctic to all the Montreal hospitals to visit patients from the north.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement today; I'm going to run out of time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? (interpretation) I didn't hear any nays. Ms. Angnakak, please proceed.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Tincombes extended their loving care and hospitality to many young Inuit passing through Montreal in the 1960s on their way to and from home, some to places of learning in southern Canada. For example, Zebedee Nungak was one of those young students remembering the Tincombes as "decent, welcoming, charitable and friendly people who were always ready, day or night, to offer a bed for rest and food for hungry stomachs." Their guestbook looked like some sort of syllabic textbook there were so many names.

Mr. Speaker, although the Tincombes did not speak Inuktitut, their kindness and generosity transcended the need for language communications. They fed their guests generously. They took them shopping, on tours of the city, and to church. They even took guests who were with them for an extended period of time to their cottage in Vermont where Mr. Tincombe had built a "crooked house" for people to stay in overnight.

Mr. Speaker, Harold and Myrtle Tincombe became "friends for life" with

many of the Inuit they hosted and befriended. Under their loving care, Evie Ikidluak earned her teaching certificate, one of the first Inuit to do so. Jaco Mark eventually returned home and reintegrated with his fellow Inuit and culture. The Tincombes' positive influence reached far beyond the people they helped directly. Beyond the immediate circle of individuals they helped, people spoke well of them and they became respected and loved even by people they had never met.

Mr. Speaker, the Tincombes did all of this because they truly cared for the people of the north. They were not compensated for their time and effort. They did it out of kindness and charity. I, for one, am grateful for their hospitality and compassion and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and acknowledging their contributions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 496 – 4(3):  
Clarification on Earlier Statement  
Regarding Inuit Customs**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people watching the proceedings, my constituents and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reference a misunderstanding that arose from a previous statement, so I will speak to it briefly. Once I have spoken to this misunderstanding, I expect that we will

make more progress in this House on *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

The issue that was misunderstood relates to my statement about loving discipline of children. I apologize for that misunderstanding, as those Inuit who listened understood my points. It seems that our fellow residents who aren't Inuit and understand Inuit culture misunderstood the gist of my comments about children and discipline. It was meant towards the fathers and mothers and the traditional disciplinary actions.

The first issue I will speak to is the slapping of the hands. When you scold your child and they end up crying, leave them alone until they stop. What I am trying to clear up here is the age at which Inuit children were slapped on the hands. This slapping of the hands only occurred around the ages of 4, 5, and 6 where the children are learning social skills and understand. When the child stops crying, the parent has to explain why the slapping occurred and the exact reason why the discipline occurred.

You start by telling them, "It is due to my love for you." This is loving discipline meant to correct actions. You tell them, "The consequences of disobeying will lead to more discipline." When the child understands why the discipline occurred, they become more obedient and can socialize with other children. This is what I wanted clearly understood here.

Mr. Speaker, the other matter that was also misunderstood will be the next subject I speak to. This would only apply to children from ages 6 to 10 and older. Mr. Speaker, let me be clear that I don't want any child hurt. I don't want to see

any beatings of children, as I am very protective of children of this age. I don't wish to see any kind of abusive discipline that is contrary to loving discipline, as this was misunderstood. I do not want any parent interpreting this to mean freedom as I don't want children to be abused.

I want the audience to clearly understand my comments and I want the viewers to understand what I am saying.

I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I will now add a short supplementary comment to finish up.

I am adamantly stating that this has to be understood: I don't want any older children to be beaten or to be disciplined with any type of stick or lash. Instead, the discipline I reference is specific to the ages I mentioned, as they have to know how to socialize and to respect others. I apologize for that as I caused misunderstanding to sprout up amongst the audience on this issue.

It became a story on the news that Mr. Shooyook was advocating for physically abusing children. I will advocate for no such thing, as the audience has to understand that my comments were only about younger children, and I do not want any older children to be mistreated.

Furthermore, to the people who misunderstood my remarks or who didn't understand should always approach me so that I can explain to them before they create an outcry over my comments. Once they understand where I am coming from, we can work together to put forward proper information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 497 – 4(3):  
Acknowledging the Passing of  
Baker Lake Mayor David  
Aksawnee**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to send my condolences to Baker Lake.

I would like to pay tribute to the late Mayor David Aksawnee, who I used to work closely with. He was a very nice individual and always friendly to anybody. He worked closely with other people in representing his community.

I used to be proud that an Inuk was very capable in representing his community. He was very friendly every time I went to Baker Lake. I would be quite happy to get together with him and he was also one of my foundations in the community when I would travel to Baker Lake. I am proud of the residents of Baker Lake for they had a capable person representing them.

Further, to his family he left behind, they are in our thoughts and we send our condolences to all people in Baker Lake during this time of loss and hardship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 498 – 4(3):  
Tununig Ikajuqtiit Food Bank**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again acknowledge the important work that is being performed by the Tununig Ikajuqtiit Food Bank in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents are making a difference every day in the lives of their fellow residents. Mr. Speaker, volunteers like Ruben Arnakallak and Bobby Aglak deserve our thanks and acknowledgement.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, one of the recent initiatives of the Tununig Ikajuqtiit Food Bank is providing support for young men in the community to harvest country food for the benefit of the community as a whole. Mr. Speaker, initiatives like this help to address the immediate issue of hunger, build skills, and foster a stronger sense of community responsibility.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have raised the issue of food security on a number of occasions during sittings of the Legislative Assembly, and I will have questions later today for the appropriate minister concerning the work of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to the many residents of Pond Inlet who make the important work of the Tununiq Ikajuqtiit Food Bank possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 499 – 4(3):  
Weekend Hockey Tournament in  
Arviat**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Prior to making my statement for which I rise, I want to first speak to the subject my colleague made a statement about what transpired in Baker Lake, where the loss occurred.

Let me begin by stating that I share in the sense of loss and in particular the family, as I also knew David Aksawnee very well. He also had many relatives in the outlying communities and this is usually the case. I wanted to let them know that we feel their loss and we will keep them in our thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share this good news that occurred over the (interpretation ends) weekend (interpretation) between Friday and Sunday. There was a hockey tournament for the midget levels, at least that is what we call teenagers aged 13 to 17 in our dialect. They participated in Arviat's tournament on (interpretation ends) Friday, Saturday, Sunday (interpretation) and the tournament closed yesterday.

There was a team that travelled from Iqaluit as well as teams from all the communities in the Kivalliq region. I wanted to share with my colleagues the feeling of pride, as I take great pride whenever I am informed about events. I also recall seeing the participation list along with the communities.

The smaller communities of Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, and Naujaat are the three communities that had to fundraise and choose their (interpretation ends) players at the midget (interpretation) tournament level from these older players. When funding was sufficient along with their players, they then travelled to Arviat to partake in the tournament, joining the teams from Arviat, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Coral Harbour, and others. They were able to come up with enough players to have their own team to play in Arviat and they competed against Arviat, Iqaluit, and Rankin Inlet with that combined team. It's called the territorial tryouts to select players.

Mr. Speaker, I would like a unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, 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. Kuksuk, please proceed.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much to my colleagues.

As I just stated, the three smaller communities combined their players into one team and went and competed in



Arviat. Last night they were having the finals and I was very glad to see that that combined team was among the medallists. They got third place, they got the bronze, and I am very proud for them being able to do that and also all the other athletes that came and competed.

It's not just a game, Mr. Speaker. I know that they made new friends and it really raised their personal profile doing what they love to do, playing hockey. It really helps our young people whenever they get together and make new friends and do the fun things that they like to do together.

I ask my colleagues here to join me in celebrating all the hockey players that competed at the weekend hockey tournament in Arviat. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 500 – 4(3):  
Weekend Hockey Tournament in  
Iqaluit**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague is talking about hockey, so I'll talk hockey too.

There were young girls who came here to play hockey in Iqaluit and they're all from Arviat. There were also players from Chesterfield Inlet and Pond Inlet. The teams came from there. We went to watch them and it was very hard to watch hoping they would win, but they didn't do so. They came in third, which

is really good, which I was very happy to watch.

The women's Arviat team is coached by Jamie Samuel and I will go through the names of the young girls that comprised the team. They wrote their names down for me, so I apologize if I mispronounce some of them, but I'll try. They are:

Kadin Pihuktik-Copland,  
Lalainia Suluk,  
Hailey Pameolik,  
Cayla Kablutsiak,  
Meg Malla,  
Megan Kalluak,  
Jessica Hapanak,  
Jane Kinak,  
Shailyn Nanauq,  
Sylvia Pameolik,  
Jaime Copland,  
Juanita Issakiark, and  
Emily-Ann Koomuk.

They will be leaving pretty soon. I would like the members to join me in expressing our happiness for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 501 – 4(3): Long  
Distance Travel by Joe  
Evyagotailak**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my condolences to David Aksawnee's family and the people of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit are well known as great travellers on the sea and on the land. Last summer our former colleague and Kugluktuk resident Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak and his wife travelled over 2,000 kilometres in 21 days from Hay River to Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact of life for many of us here in Nunavut that you have to travel long distances. From my home in Kugluktuk to here in Iqaluit is over 2,000 kilometres and three time zones away.

Mr. Speaker, Joe and his family got their new boat shipped from Winnipeg to Hay River and then took the boat from Hay River across Great Slave Lake and down the Mackenzie River. From there, because of the bad weather, they were stuck in Tuktoyaktuk for seven days. Finally, after three weeks of travel, they made it home safely to Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first trip from Hay River to Kugluktuk by boat made by one of our residents. It does demonstrate traditional knowledge and skills our people have, whether they travel on land or by water and by sea.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure this House will join me in congratulating Joe Allen Evyagotailak and his family for getting his family and the boat safely back to Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk Mr. Hickes.

**Member's Statement 502 – 4(3):  
Successful Hockey Nunavut  
Tournaments in Iqaluit and Arviat**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned by a couple of my colleagues already, this past weekend, March 3 through 5, Hockey Nunavut hosted two territorial championships. The female tournament was held here in Iqaluit and the midget tournament was held in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, over 225 hockey players, coaches, and chaperones attended these two tournaments. Hockey Nunavut was extremely pleased with both tournaments and being able to provide a fun and friendship filled weekend for all the players.

Mr. Speaker, as mentioned, this tournament is an identifier to assist in selecting the hockey teams for the Arctic Winter Games in 2018. The bantam territorial tournament will be held here in Iqaluit from March 24 through 26.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues that spoke of these tournaments earlier neglected to mention a couple of things. I would like to just take it a little bit further.

In the end of both tournaments Iqaluit won gold in both of them. Andrew Pearce from here in Iqaluit was named the top defensive player of the midget tournament, Kevin Kullualik of Iqaluit was named the MVP of the midget tournament, and Riley McPherson of Iqaluit was named the MVP of the female territorial tournament.

On behalf of myself and I am sure all of my colleagues here and Hockey Nunavut, I would like to take the time to thank all the volunteers for their assistance and contribution to making these two tournaments a success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 503 – 4(3):  
Appreciation of Nunavut Teachers**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset who are listening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pride and thankfulness for our teachers. Mr. Speaker, our parents are our first teachers as we are starting off in life, but being a teacher is a job these days. I am very proud of teachers, who have given themselves and committed themselves to improve our children's lives so that they can be useful when they get older.

Mr. Speaker, as we are growing up, we don't really understand what the teachers are doing when we're young boys and girls. We may not understand the things that we have to learn or know how to use it for good or bad, but the teachers are older than we are and they know more, so they try to teach us.

Mr. Speaker, these days with the school system set up and running with our teachers, I am just proud of them. To use an example, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program was set up so that these

students can work towards a future for younger generations.

Mr. Speaker, the teaching profession can be better supported and improved, as I am aware of the room for improvement. Further, I have raised questions about this matter in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that at the appropriate time I will be asking questions about the need to increase the number of teachers here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**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 Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 650 – 4(3): Status of General Rate Application**

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

The most recent annual report of the Utility Rates Review Council indicates that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's next general rate application to the URRC is expected to be submitted during the 2017-18 fiscal year, which begins less than a month from now.

Can the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation confirm when the Qulliq Energy Corporation will be submitting its next general rate

application to the Utility Rates Review Council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Johnny Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank my colleague for his question. Yes, the Qulliq Energy Corporation usually submits their general rate application to the Utility Rates Review Council when they want to make changes to the electrical rate. The Qulliq Energy Corporation, according to the plan that was set out, will be submitting the rate application for Nunavut in September 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2012 the Qulliq Energy Corporation received a ministerial instruction to move towards a territorial rate structure. In 2014 this instruction was retracted, and the QEC received new instructions to provide “cost of service study options for consideration in its next General Rate Application.” Can the minister inform the House today what rate structure the Qulliq Energy Corporation currently supports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the [Qulliq] Energy Corporation, Mr. Johnny Mike.

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

presently being dealt with. When the QEC was informed by the Utility Rates Review Council of their latest review, they were directed to do the review.

At this time the general procedure used by the QEC is what I want to clarify here in the House. When the Qulliq Energy Corporation reviewed that, they issued an RFP and the contract was awarded to (interpretation ends) InterGroup Consultants, or ICL. (interpretation) Due to these reasons the recommendations that the URRC submitted will be tabled for the 2018-19 fiscal year application.

The review has been worked on since last year starting in June where a contract was let to conduct a study on electricity and to enact a vision for the future. This will include implementation planning for this review. Also, the secondary process relates to capital infrastructure and the capital project planning process that was being reviewed. They may include improvements.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation also contracted out a study on service provision and the consultant was Dennis Flemming, who is conducting a study on various aspects of services that are provided and the rates to use. When the day arrives, due to these reasons, the general rate application will be submitted.

Furthermore, the third area revolves around the ICL study. The QEC is also preparing the recommendations on electrical rates by the URRC. These contracted groups are now reviewing the advice provided and due to that reason the utility rates will increase as of April 1, 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, the last significant change in power rates occurred in 2014, following the conclusion of the last general rate application process. At that time the QEC's base rates increased by 7.1 percent for all customer classes and communities. Can the minister indicate today what increase the QEC will be seeking in its next general rate application? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my previous statement, at this time the QEC has directed the Utility Rates Review Council to review the electrical rates based on the mandate provided to the QEC to periodically review the electrical rates and to look at the factors that may result in increases or cost savings. Nevertheless, it includes improvements to the operations of the QEC, which the URRC wanted reviewed to look at more efficiency and improve their operations, but this review is still ongoing at this time.

With respect to any question about whether an increase may be warranted, I don't have the details and can't comment on that, especially since these issues are still under review. Once the information has been prepared, it seems obvious it will be provided. At this time I haven't received their recommendation yet. I

can't state whether an increase will occur in our electrical rates or even if the rate will change. Due to these reasons at this time I can't respond to those questions. However, they are working on this review.

The study terms are very important and since it is still underway, when the information is ready, it will most likely be in the spring or summer when an announcement will be forthcoming on the proposed rate changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 651 – 4(3): Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet. The people of Baker Lake are in my thoughts.

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

Last week the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples released its report on housing in Inuit Nunangat. As the minister will recall, we briefly addressed this report during the Nunavut Housing Corporation's appearance before the Committee of the Whole on Friday.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Senate committee,

including our own Senator Patterson, for their hard work on this report.

For the record, does the Government of Nunavut support the formal recommendations contained in the Senate's report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I also thank the member for his question in regard to the Senate committee report on housing. Mr. Speaker, as a government, especially the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation, (interpretation) we took part during the study. We were also able to be involved when they made their recommendations contained in the report. We also had input with changes we felt needed to be made. That's what I can say to my colleague. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister be writing to his federal counterpart in support of the recommendations contained in the Senate's report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The report was recently tabled a few days ago. I have just seen the report recently and I am still going through the report. My department and officials in the housing corporation are now reviewing the report. If we're going to be asked questions or provide an action plan, we will do so. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) One of the issues that the Senate report highlighted is the situation with staff housing. The report noted that, and I quote, "Despite the urgent housing shortage in northern communities, witnesses were frustrated that many staff housing units in their communities remained vacant."

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** "Due to the challenges of finding skilled employees in the territory, many positions are difficult to fill and often remain vacant for extended periods. As a result, staff housing units associated with these positions remain vacant."

Can the minister indicate how the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Blueprint for Action on Housing* is addressing this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing

Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. Mr. Speaker, in regard to the member's question regarding staff housing units, there are recommendations in the report and in the blueprint for action we planned and worked with those stakeholders from outside the government.

We will be dealing with these issues in Committee of the Whole. When members were reviewing the applications from the department last week, we also spoke to the fact that this is being developed. To ensure that my colleague understands, staff housing or public housing includes many categories and issues. We will work on these issues and we anticipate a report being completed after this review.

What I can relay to my colleague is related to staff housing and how our employees are provided with staff housing. It includes recommendations as well. This is in the midst of the study. Within the short term, I can't commit to providing information as that will only be available once the review process is completed. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 652 – 4(3): Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the

Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister will recall, the government introduced a bill last year requesting approval to write off just over ten million dollars in spending associated with the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project. When the bill was considered by the Legislative Assembly, the project was described as being on "permanent hold."

On January 23, 2017, there's a letter here, the Nunavut Impact Review Board formally requested the QEC to "provide an update with respect to the anticipated date for submission of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project." In its reply to NIRB, the QEC indicated that, and I quote, "the Iqaluit project continues to be on hold until further review."

My question for the minister is this: is the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project alive, is it dead, or is it on life support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. The letter my colleague referenced as being July 2017 is actually, I believe, 2016. July 2017? Yes, I will leave it there, as I am unsure if the directive has been abandoned or kept alive. I can only respond that the matter is on hold, as the initiative is still kicking around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assure the minister that this letter is dated January 23, 2017.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate what specific reviews are currently being undertaken by the QEC regarding the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The renewable energy generation methods are included in this review, any electrical generation method not using diesel. Currently our only option is to use diesel generators, unfortunately. This project is outside of the study.

As it is part of the QEC's mandate to research alternatives, any method that doesn't impact the environment is included in the review, including solar, wind, or even a hydroelectric project. Those are presently being reviewed, but currently it's just on hold. Even though we're working on other projects, with the environmental impact review that would be conducted, they have identified \$6.6 million to look at tidal energy only and if this was to proceed, it would be at a cost of \$400 million to \$500 million. In 2013 the estimated cost was \$355 million.

Currently it's just on hold while the other reviews are going on, but these projects are outside of the Qulliq Energy

Corporation's control when it's being dealt by the Nunavut Impact Review Board. That is why the Qulliq Energy Corporation's hydroelectric project is on hold right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's no secret that the current federal government talks a lot about the importance of green energy, so I would encourage the federal government to support this green project. Can the minister describe what specific efforts he has made to obtain federal support for the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The energy corporation, as I stated, is looking for alternative forms of energy and the hydroelectric project is part of that. That's where it stands right now.

When I was the Minister of Environment, I think I was in Lima or Paris. I can't recall which city it was in, but there was a meeting on the use of green energy and alternative forms of energy. I think it was in Paris. I was there with the Premier. With respect to the environment and climate change, the Government of Canada spent \$2.6 billion to support projects outside of Canada. This was a huge amount when it was for outside of Canada.



We were just expecting the budget from the Government of Canada as the energy corporation and the government. For that reason, for instance, if they can support international organizations with \$2.6 billion for clean energy, it depends on the lack of infrastructure in the communities. I know that is the way things are in the Arctic with the lack of appropriate infrastructure. With respect to federal programs for clean energy, I am just waiting for what the announcements for the north will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 653 – 4(3): Support for Non-decentralized Communities**

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

Mr. Speaker, last year or a bit longer now, I spoke to the subject of smaller, non-decentralized communities that didn't benefit from decentralization.

Mr. Speaker, to date I haven't seen a single initiative from this government on how to improve the situations in our smaller communities and to have specific funding towards that that can be supported by our government. I have yet to see any initiative or plan towards that.

Can he elaborate on the plans this government may have developed to accrue more benefits to the smaller communities through a government-sponsored program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking about that. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of small communities out there that are looking for any kind of economic development activities. Naujaat and Coral Harbour are no different from the smaller communities that are out there. Some smaller communities have taken on their own initiatives to try to do small community programs.

There are many programs within both the territorial government and federal government. There's also CanNor that delivers programs on behalf of any community in Nunavut. For the most part there are many other programs within the federal government where the communities can tap into for any kind of economic activity. Within our government we have access road programs and other smaller programs that the smaller communities can take advantage of.

Mr. Speaker, for the most part a handful of smaller communities have taken on their own initiatives to ensure that they have activities happening within their smaller communities. For the most part the initiation comes from the hamlet councils themselves. I'm sure there are a lot of letters going back and forth from his community to Economic Development to better understand what programming there is out there.

Again, there are many programs that any small community can take advantage of

with CanNor's office being right here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is almost the exact response he provided, as I recall.

Nonetheless, I keep making the statement that smaller communities have an exceedingly hard time in initiating any economic development activity, primarily due to the reason that there are no employment opportunities and the lack of government workers who would provide funding or the initiative. There are no opportunities. It is almost impossible to keep a private business running in a smaller community, especially if it is an isolated and remote community. This is exacerbated when the community is remote and expensive to operate out of.

However, what I want to ask about is this: does this government have any plan or idea at this time to provide support to the smaller communities, such as various programs and services to be provided by the Government of Nunavut? As an example, there are no addiction services available for smaller communities. Has the government looked at ideas such as that to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, there are arm's-length corporations that are out there that try to focus on the smaller communities, the non-decentralized

communities, which is the Nunavut Development Corporation.

In fact several years ago there was an initiative through Economic Development and Transportation of a soapstone quarry or soapstone deposit identification program where a number of deposits were identified. We tried to work with the community to quarry these soapstone deposits so that smaller communities can actually make it economically feasible for their community and their people in these smaller, non-decentralized communities.

I haven't seen any proposals or anything that have come in from that particular community, but for sure I'll have my officials look into that by contacting the mayor and hamlet council on what their initial proposals were about for quarrying soapstone. For a fact there have been some deposits that were identified just outside of Naujaat. One intention I had several years ago was to make sure that local people quarry and sold soapstone to other communities because we know for a fact that there's a major shortage of carving soapstone within our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a response to my question, but I'm sure that the Nunavut government will set up some kind of an office that will be paid for by the government. I used an example of an addictions treatment centre or mental health services. Should we be able to put up those types of

infrastructure, could you make sure that the smaller communities are the ones to have those buildings put up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, there are good examples out there where a community has organized to establish some of these processes. Especially one comes to mind and of course that's Clyde River, where they have a group of people doing addictions counselling, drugs and alcohol. In fact they are travelling throughout the territory holding workshops so that smaller communities can be involved in this.

Mr. Speaker, I'll speak with my colleague to try to determine how we can better help the smaller communities that are out there, especially the non-decentralized communities. I understand where the hon. member is coming from. For sure I'll speak with my colleague and get a hold of the mayor of Nauyasat to try to fully understand what they do want to initiate for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 654 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou Management**

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

Mr. Speaker, I have asked questions repeatedly about Baffin Island caribou. We have a quota system set up for the Baffin, which is still applied to date. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister to give us an update about the Baffin Island caribou quota. How many caribou have been harvested from that quota? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of February 9, up to 166 caribou have been harvested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that many caribou harvested, which communities have reached their quota and which have not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, with the information I have, I think Iqaluit is the only community that has met its entire quota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can only harvest male caribou on Baffin Island. Were there any female caribou harvested and,

if so, would we be penalized in a similar manner as for harvesting a female polar bear? Would the same apply for any caribou? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that quota system only male caribou can be harvested. If female caribou are caught, then a law would be broken and there would have to be a review done with that particular situation. However, there is no penalty applied if a female caribou is harvested. Polar bear quotas are just for polar bears. It doesn't apply to caribou. If you harvest a female polar bear, two tags are removed from your quota. There is no penalty for the caribou, but we urge all hunters to harvest just male caribou. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 655 – 4(3): Nunavut Food Security Coalition**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Family Services.

As the minister will recall, I paid tribute in the House last year to the work of Pond Inlet's Tununig Ikajuqtiit Food Bank and I have been a vocal proponent of reform of the federal Nutrition North Canada Program.

I am referring to the February 24, 2016 *Hansard* on page 770. I want to follow up today on questions that I asked to the

minister last year concerning the Nunavut Food Security Coalition. It's in the October 26, 2016 *Hansard* on page 18.

The government recently issued a request for proposals to conduct an evaluation of the *Nunavut Food Security Coalition Strategy and Action Plan*. It is numbered 2016-71. The final report and recommendations from this work is scheduled to be completed by the end of this month. Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of this report in the Legislative Assembly during our upcoming spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition has been doing the work on this subject. What we do with the federal Nutrition North Canada Program is subsidize the cost of food and provide other services in the communities.

I can't even remember whether the report is going to be tabled during this winter sitting or if it's going to be tabled in the spring sitting. I just can't remember which session it would be ready by. I'll make sure that I talk to my staff and we will give you a definite answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could remind the

minister, the report is not finalized yet and it will be completed this month. You wouldn't be able to table it in the winter sitting if it's not completed right away. That's why I asked you if it's going to be tabled in the spring sitting.

Let me ask this question: will the Nunavut Food Security Coalition's most recent annual report be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our current winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, with respect to the report for 2016, I do apologize that I couldn't give you a definite answer as to whether it will be tabled during the winter or spring sitting. I will look into the matter and give you a better response in the House during this winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister describe what the Nunavut Food Security Coalition's top priority will be for the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The coalition has been quite busy since its inception.

They worked together closely and have had good meetings with the communities, so this issue has been given a high level of consideration. During 2017-18 we talked about country foods being readily available, for example, making freezers available or having some type of support system set up so that more country food would be made available.

With the federal Nutrition North Canada Program being reformed, we will make sure that foods are made available and possibly set up a subsidy program for sealift or airfreight. We can look at how we can lower food prices even further. There are a lot of costs to be factored in such as fuel cost for aircraft and the condition of runways or whether there's adequate warehouse space available. We have thought about all these transportation issues and how to tweak airline scheduling to improve shipping of food, as well as by ships.

Those are some of the activities that are being addressed by the coalition. Last year the coalition did an excellent job of meeting its challenges. It's something that is very important to us because we need to have enough food available to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 656 – 4(3): Addressing Nunavut's Need for Inuit Teachers**

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

Mr. Speaker, last week I tabled a report called *A Hunger to Teach*, which addresses the recruitment of Inuit teachers in Nunavut. The report identifies five barriers that Inuit face in becoming teachers, including language, academics, financial, family and housing issues as well as the lack of knowledge of post-secondary programs such as Nunavut's Teacher Education Program.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify whether he and his staff have identified any other barriers facing Inuit who may wish to become teachers in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking about that. When it comes to barriers, I have read through the document and the responses to it. Every year we ask the communities what they want to teach within their communities.

One of the barriers that we have is when, for example, we get just two people to apply for NTEP. When we have too few students applying for the program, we are unable to provide the program. That's one barrier as a result of too few applicants. We always encourage the communities on this since it is something that they can easily administer whenever there are enough interested applicants.

Sometimes another barrier may be when we run the programs called community teacher education programs and they're usually in the larger communities like Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge

Bay. Some people are interested in applying, but they don't want to move to the larger communities.

Those are some of the barriers that I have heard. I don't know of any other ones. We try to make ourselves available to assist them in any way we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know about what the minister just told us.

Mr. Speaker, the *Hunger to Teach* report includes six recommendations with respect to improving the recruitment of Inuit into the teaching profession. It also mentions what the minister said, such as expanding support for the NTEP program and its students as well as involving NTEP students in information and recruitment campaigns.

I know the minister said that he read it, but has he had the opportunity to review these recommendations and, if so, does he agree with them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for requesting more information on that. In actuality any member of the public in Nunavut or even outside of Nunavut can submit any suggestions. I see this in the same light that anyone can provide constructive suggestions or ideas.

However, I am pleased to say and I believe I have commented in the past in the House that the Nunavut Teacher Education Program is undergoing a comprehensive review. What I can state now is that during this calendar month of March we will be awarding the contract for the RFP. This was just completed and we reached an agreement with (interpretation ends) Directions Evidence and Policy Research Group, (interpretation) who will conduct this review. I can also inform my colleague that our expectations are that the review will be completed in June.

However, we have asked that these particular aspects be reviewed prior to June 2017: whether we increase the numbers of students in the NTEP program; how to increase the funding; and how the program can be geared towards higher levels. This would be specific to the (interpretation ends) middle school (interpretation) and higher grades and whether further studies would be required to attain that.

The other area we are asking to be reviewed includes the course materials used to train the teachers and how to increase the course materials. We identified this as a barrier that cropped up in the past.

Another issue we have asked to be carefully reviewed is whether a more condensed program could be introduced so that teachers can be trained in a shorter time frame.

Another area we wanted reviewed is how these prospective teachers can use the second or third year when the program closes for the year, whether they can practise teach or do a practicum

while also taking their courses. In their third or fourth year of the course they would visit the schools more to see how they can be encouraged to stay in the program and become real teachers.

We have also encouraged them to see how we can have the Inuktitut language be very strongly taught in the schools.

Those are some of the things that we will have reviewed in regard to the Teacher Education Program. I have read the document that was referenced and we will have it reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the recommendations that he mentioned from the *Hunger to Teach* report is to “Develop a shorter provisional teacher education program to apprentice teachers and get them teaching while completing [their] degree requirement over time.” While this review is happening, will the minister commit to considering this revised approach as part of his department’s ongoing review of the NTEP program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my previous remarks, this program is undergoing a review and once a report is available and we have completed our review of the report, I would better be able to answer the question.

However, when the students are taking the courses, perhaps they could visit students in the grade 11 or 12 classes and they can practise in order to get a better idea of what preparations and research are required for planning classroom lessons. Once they visit our actual schools, our students would have better grasp of the work required to properly teach their students.

Nonetheless, as per my earlier response, there are many areas that will be reviewed and I would be able to provide more details upon completion of this review. However, it is in relation to these issues we want carefully reviewed. What is noticeable in our work to improve the program is the ultimate goal of improving our current program offerings. We want to see more students in this program. We are using this review to identify these challenges. This review will identify them, as well as the direction we ought to take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 657 – 4(3): Inuit  
Qaujimajatuqangit Coordination  
within Departments**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't recall the date, but the Department of Culture and Heritage had a responsible minister who was accountable, where they introduced an initiative to outline the work through reports in each department related to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. It showed the work being done and the reports tabled by that minister.

I would like to ask the minister currently responsible for the Department of Culture and Heritage if any reports are done and if there are any developments in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry, but if you can please wait a moment.

Thank you. I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Please rephrase your question to show respect to the minister, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Speaker, as I am trying to express myself in Inuktitut since we are asked to speak in Inuktitut where possible. I apologize if the phrase wasn't understood properly.

I was trying to ask the Minister of Culture and Heritage about the past practice of our government that identified individual departments to report on their initiatives to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* within their operations. There was a report tabled by a previous minister on this past work.

My question is: what is the status of this work? Has more work been added to the past work or will the minister table further reports on what each individual department of our government is undertaking to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into their operations? Hopefully that is clearer now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My



colleague knows for sure that all the departments have the responsibility to work on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and the recommendations made by the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit. We have IQ coordinators in each department and we are working continually to deal with traditional knowledge and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

I just wanted to elaborate to the member that IQ is within all government departments and they are all working together to incorporate traditional knowledge. If there's a recommendation made by the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit, then we review them. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We keep talking about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values in the House. Can the minister table another report on how each department is doing and what they are working on regarding *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* so that Nunavummiut will have a better knowledge of what the departments are doing to incorporate traditional knowledge? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before when I responded to the member, all the departments have *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* coordinators and we have an IQ committee. I just can't remember the name of the committee,

but they are working closely with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit through the Department of Culture and Heritage. We are working very closely together.

I can table the report in the House once it's available, but I'm just not sure exactly when that will be. I will be tabling that report once I have it in my hands. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. The Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

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

#### **Committee Report 018 – 4(3): Bill 19, Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 19, *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 19 will appear on the order paper on Wednesday, March 8.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

**Committee Report 019 – 4(3): Bill 26,  
An Act to Amend the Social  
Assistance Act**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 26 will appear on the order paper on Wednesday, March 8.

(interpretation) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 266 – 4(3): Excerpt  
from the 2014 Annual Report of  
the Alberta Serious Incident  
Response Team**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table today an excerpt from a recent annual report of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team. This entity provides civilian oversight over police services in that province.

I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team has an agreement with

the Yukon government to “conduct investigations into any serious incident” involving the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

I encourage all members to review this document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 267 – 4(3): FPT  
Ministers of Health Meeting,  
Toronto, Ontario, October 17 to  
18, 2016**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the conference of FPT ministers of health report, October 17 and 18, 2016 in Toronto, Ontario. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 268 – 4(3): FPT  
Forum of Labour Market  
Ministers, Quebec City, October  
14, 2016**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I am pleased to table the Forum of Labour Market Ministers’ FPT Meeting, October 14, 2016, Quebec City, Quebec. Thank you, *Uqaqtii*.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of

Community and Government Services,  
Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Tabled Document 269 – 4(3):  
Northern Employee Benefits  
Services Pension Plan Annual  
Report, December 31, 2015**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Annual Report* for the year ended December 31, 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. (interpretation) Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 044 – 4(3): Extension of  
Review Period for Bill 29, An Act  
to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act  
– Notice**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, that the period of time for the Standing Committee on Legislation to report Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 32, 33, 34, and 35 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 41 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I ask that members remain at their desks. We will have a 20-minute break. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:31 and  
Committee resumed at 15:59*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon. Welcome back. 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 afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 34 and the review of the main estimates for the Department of Family Services, if time permits, followed by the

departments of Justice and Finance.  
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 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Family Services if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Yes. Thank you.

**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.

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister to my right is Rebekah Williams and an official with the Department of Family Services is Sol Modesto-Vardy, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Welcome to your staff. Please proceed with your opening comments, Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Good afternoon, committee members. Good day, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee of the Whole, I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Family Services.

The department provides a range of programs and services to promote self-reliance and healthy families. Program delivery is designed to support families and individuals to meet their basic needs; to seek education, training, and employment; and to protect those most vulnerable in our territory.

Mr. Chairman, for 2017-18 the Department of Family Services is proposing an operating budget of \$138,262,000, which represents an increase of \$419,000 over last year's main estimates. The staff complement for the department has increased from 216.63 PYs in 2016-17 to 228.7 PYs in the proposed 2017-18 main estimates.

**Children and Family Services**

The Children and Family Services Branch has been allocated \$55.9 million, which represents 40 percent of the department's proposed 2017-18 operating budget. This branch provides a broad range of support services for children, families, and vulnerable adults who may require protection and/or other specialized support. The division also provides emergency intervention as well as prevention programs to address domestic and family violence.

The department continues to implement the *Quality Protects Action Plan*, which was developed as a response to the Auditor General's 2011 and 2014 children and family services reviews. To support these efforts, the Children and Family Services Branch will be increasing its number of much-needed frontline workers and program support staff in the Iqaluit office, including a manager, two family resources workers, a community social services worker, and a support staff to assist with more than 500 active cases in the Iqaluit office.

The department recognizes the linkage between child sexual abuse and suicide in Nunavut. To assist in our response to suicide prevention, we have allocated funding for a PY at headquarters that will be responsible for developing initiatives on preventing violence against children and youth, with a focus on sexual abuse.

(interpretation ends) We are pleased with the progress that we have made during this past year and we look forward to continuing to move in the right direction towards prevention, community engagement and outreach.

Guardianship Services has moved from the Children and Family Services Branch to the Corporate Management Branch. (interpretation) This is to ensure that it is less likely for the public guardian to be placed in a situation where there may be conflicts of interest.

The Government of Nunavut intends to consolidate all residential long-term care for seniors under the Department of Health. Effective April 1, 2017 the responsibility for Nunavut's three elders' homes, which cover levels 2, 3, and 4

care, will be transferred from the Department of Family Services to the Department of Health, which has been reflected in the proposed main estimates. As a government we aim to ensure the best care for our senior population. This transfer of responsibility along with the associated \$3,063,000 in funding for contracts and contributions will provide a clear focus on seniors' care needs by assigning responsibility for the entire continuum of seniors' care to one department. There is no PY associated with the transfer. This move of responsibility will allow the Department of Family Services to focus its efforts and resources on the core mission of protecting the most vulnerable, including seniors, from abuse, neglect, and financial insecurity. The departments of Family Services and Health established a working group for the transition, which is currently on track.

### **Income Assistance Branch**

(interpretation ends) The Income Assistance Branch has been allocated 39 percent, or \$53.8 million, of the department's proposed operating budget for 2017-18. The Income Assistance Program includes a variety of benefit programs that provide financial assistance to people 18 years of age and over and their dependants. The objective is to assist residents in achieving their goals for self-reliance.

(interpretation) As of April 1, 2016 income that families received from the federal National Child Benefit Supplement is no longer deducted from Nunavut social assistance calculations. The new Canada Child Benefit, launched by the Government of Canada in July 2016, is also exempt from the social

assistance calculations. These exemptions provide more benefits for families who need it the most. We have received positive feedback about these changes.

(interpretation ends) In order to serve the growing needs of our communities, funding will be allocated to provide six part-time income assistance worker positions in the communities of Clyde River, Igloolik, Sanikiluaq, Arviat, Gjoa Haven, and Kugaaruk.

(interpretation) Our community engagement with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation allowed Nunavummiut to provide feedback on how we can help improve our approaches to social assistance in order to promote self-reliance and provide help to those who need it the most. During the 2016 spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly the report on income assistance reform was tabled, and the department is working hard on moving these reforms forward.

### **Career Development Branch**

(interpretation ends) The Career Development Branch has been allocated 15 percent, or \$20.1 million, of the department's proposed 2017-18 operating budget. This branch employs career development officers in all regions to promote employment training programs, to administer funding to clients for these programs, and to offer career counselling services. Career Development delivers the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) program, which provides funding for students to attend post-secondary education. The branch is also responsible for the Nunavut

Apprenticeship Certification Unit, which oversees the certification of apprentices and journeypersons in the territory.

In 2017-18 the department will strengthen the work readiness of Nunavummiut by continuing to offer the Getting Ready for Employment and Training Program (G.R.E.A.T) and by supporting the training of young people and persons with disabilities through targeted training initiatives. Our proposed main estimates include an additional position to support this work.

### **Corporate Management**

(interpretation) The Corporate Management Branch has been allocated 6 percent, or \$8.5 million, of the department's proposed operating budget for 2017-18. This branch is responsible for overall management support to the department, setting direction and leadership in the key areas of strategic planning, policy development, Inuit employment and human resources planning, systems management, and financial planning. We have allocated a human resource PY which will coordinate recruitment, employee relations, and training activities of the departmental staff.

Through the Poverty Reduction Division we will continue to support the coordination and reform of programs with the goal of identifying ways to reduce poverty and better support Nunavummiut who find themselves in vulnerable situations and community-based organizations. We will continue to provide administrative support to meet the requirements of the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*. In partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated,

the division supports the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction and the implementation of the *Nunavut Food Security Action Plan*. A territorial food security coordinator position was transferred from the Department of Health to the Department of Family Services to coordinate projects under the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan*.

### **Conclusion**

Mr. Chairman, this proposed operating budget would allow the department to continue on its path to fulfilling our *Sivumut Abluqta* commitments. It would improve our ability to support Nunavummiut as they work toward achieving self-reliance, provide for their families, and support their communities.

Your support has allowed the department to achieve many of the priorities set in years past and we look forward to continuing to work with you as the department builds on those successes and continues to improve the way in which services and programs are delivered to Nunavummiut.

I would be happy to respond to questions from members of the Committee of the Whole on the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Mike and your officials.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations have reviewed the 2017-18 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Family Services.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Family Services is just over \$138 million for 2017-18. This represents a small increase over the department's restated budget for 2016-17.

As noted in previous years since the creation of the department in 2013 with the amalgamation of various divisions from different departments across the Government of Nunavut, there has been some confusing overlap with respect to services and programs being delivered by different departments. Members were therefore pleased to note that the responsibility and corresponding funding of over \$3 million for three elders' homes is being transferred to the Department of Health. The standing committee encourages the department's transition team in its efforts to make this transfer a smooth and successful one in order that services and programs for seniors and elders can be provided along a more streamlined continuum of care.

Mr. Chairman, the Children and Family Services Division of the Department of Family Services provides a wide range of support services for children and vulnerable adults, such as providing emergency intervention in cases of domestic violence, protecting the rights of children, youth, families, and vulnerable individuals, and advocating for the interests of vulnerable members of Nunavut society. However, members continue to express concerns that serious

issues such as bullying and elder abuse, especially the financial abuse of elders, are not given adequate attention through this division and strongly urge the minister to work with his staff to address the lack of services in this area. The standing committee recognizes that filling a number of frontline positions has been difficult due to the lack of office space in some communities and encourages the minister in his efforts to work with his counterpart in Community and Government Services to ensure that these much-needed workers have offices to work from.

Members of the standing committee continue to express concerns regarding the number of clients requiring specialized services and support who are sent south to other jurisdictions for residential care. Standing committee members encourage the minister to work towards having more Nunavummiut, especially children and youth, stay in Nunavut closer to their families and communities. The standing committee looks forward to updates on the reopening of the children's group home in Iqaluit as well as on what developments are being considered to improve foster care options across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, during his appearance before the standing committee to review his department's draft main estimates for 2017-18, the minister noted that the Office of the Public Guardian has been moved to the Corporate Management Division from the Children and Family Services Division. Members were given to understand that this move ensures that frontline staff, such as social workers, working under the Children and Family Services Division will not be in a

position of conflict should the Office of the Public Guardian also be involved in a case which goes to court.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services coordinates and delivers Nunavut's income assistance programs which are directed towards assisting families, adult individuals, and seniors in meeting their basic needs.

The standing committee appreciates that a number of policy changes have been brought forward by this division in recent years, including the policy to no longer deduct the federal government's Canada Child Benefit from social assistance calculations. However, standing committee members were of the view that Nunavut's income assistance system could benefit from further reforms that more realistically take into account the actual employment opportunities in communities and how income assistance clients apply for and use their benefits.

The Department of Family Services, in conjunction with the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College, administers a number of programs and resources related to adult and post-secondary learning. The department also administers financial assistance programs, such as FANS (Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students) and the Adult Learning and Training Supports Program, which provide important support to individuals seeking to further their education.

Committee members noted that greater support could be provided to high school students who may wish to enter trades and apprenticeship programs after graduation and encourage the minister to



work closely with his counterpart in Education to address this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services provides funding and resources for the operation of shelter programs across Nunavut. The standing committee has noted that the department has decreased funding in its 2017-18 budget for contributions towards shelter programs and looks forward to future updates on what other initiatives will be put in place to address issues such as poverty and homelessness across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The floor is now open for general comments. I want to remind members that the contents of the minister's opening comments are covered in the different branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, please ask them under the appropriate branches. Opening comments?

We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the department estimates starting on page D-4. Family Services. Corporate Management. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reviewing the main estimates as presented, including the business plan, it states that the department is responsible for residents who are homeless. The business plan outlines how the department is anticipating services for people in that situation.

I now want to ask the witnesses in front of us. There is a homeless shelter here in Iqaluit and the beds are always full. Can his office help Iqaluit find a larger shelter for homeless people? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Concerns like that of homeless people and people who have no place to make a home in Nunavut, some years it becomes easier to deal with, but it's much harder to deal with other years. We try to help people like that in Nunavut.

There was a shelter in Cambridge Bay that was opened recently through an emergency where people can occupy on a temporary basis. The one in Iqaluit is run by a number of groups. With the number of people who have to stay in the shelter, different organizations have worked together to provide that. We try to assist with homelessness issues in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some people are looking at unused buildings that the government owns. Can the minister try to lobby his fellow ministers to try to help out in looking for a suitable building for use for homeless people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. More of a capital item, but Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. We always work with all government departments on the

homelessness issue to try to come up with solutions for the homeless.

We're always trying to find solutions for it to try to move the issue forward through different considerations and looking for financial resources that can be used for that purpose, such as the Department of Family Services and other departments affected by homelessness within the federal government. We try to see if we can access more capital funding as well or temporary places that can be used. Those things are always worked on and we work with different departments and groups to try to find places like that.

The one that my colleague is referring to is to see if we can find a suitable building that can be used as an additional shelter in Iqaluit. We're always trying to find solutions, as I said, and the plans that have been made have been along those lines. I would like to mention that the Uqutaq Men's Shelter in Iqaluit that is utilized has 20 beds. It has a capacity of 35 up to a maximum of 40 people.

We are well aware of the need of the Uqutaq shelter, so we are kept informed of the building. The condition isn't that great either now. Due to that reason, when work is required, the City of Iqaluit works with various federal and territorial departments to search for funding. That is all I can respond with at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do know that it touches on capital matters, but the operational funding is provided by the government

for housing purposes. That is why they are funded to operate the shelter and that is why I am asking about it.

Since they're seeking assistance, will they indeed be assisted by your department? I know that departments usually have excess funds lying around. It would really alleviate their operational challenges. The reason why I ask the question to the minister is if he will indeed follow through with his promise to help them out with their request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as per my previous statement, that is what we constantly work towards. Further, whenever any group wants to work with our department, whether it's in partnership, we work with them.

With respect to my colleague's question, my response is yes. Homelessness is complicated, although I am aware that this issue is constantly receiving ideas on alternatives and not just through the Department of Family Services. My response to his question is yes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since he responded with that answer, I would encourage the minister to provide a report in the future on this subject.

The second question that I want to ask relates to lowering the numbers of income support clients. Within the business plan in the English version on

page 138 it identifies the significant funds for this purpose. It states that future meetings will take place. When will this constant round of meetings come to a close, and when will his department start pushing for recommendations from these continual meetings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, the office we are referring to here deals with poverty reduction. Yes, the meetings on poverty reduction include a planned meeting related to this issue, which speaks to the myriad of factors specific to poverty or those with food insecurities. There are various factors related to this issue and this relates to self-sufficiency. The plan outlines the second part that they are working on now.

The past meeting minutes are discussed at the next meeting, along with recommendations for initiatives related to poverty reduction. Alternatively it can apply to pulling residents above the poverty line. It can include food support, housing support, or various means of improving lives. Further, it can involve improving one's lifestyle and in trying to be a productive citizen. Many factors are in play within this field.

The Department of Family Services works closely with the many groups. There are planned meetings scheduled here in Iqaluit, as we have good partnerships with the groups involved in this area. Tomorrow, on March 7 the meetings will start up until March 9, so this meeting will include discussions on these issues.

We need to move this forward due to the reason that many of the ideas discussed in 2010 up to 2012 and reaching to now have been moved forward, especially the ideas to combat poverty. All the things that have been said or thought of since 2010 have progressed. The work to try to reduce poverty has been happening since then and that's where we're at right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that they have held meetings or roundtables. However, I would like to see poverty reduction in our communities. What kinds of results have been provided by these meetings and roundtables? There have been roundtables quite a few times. Have you made any plans to respond to Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to this matter, the successor to Makimaniq Plan, Makimaniq II, the meetings that are held in Nunavut are specific to poverty reduction initiatives. It includes reviewing past meeting minutes and to determine the work required both through the government and the first report that stemmed from the roundtable of partners.

The other report, which we anticipate will be submitted after the completion of the meeting, will include a report and recommendations and will allow members to understand the work done to date. This is being done through partnership and speaks to poverty

reduction or in lowering the numbers of our residents on the poverty line.

I wanted to reference the partnership on this file as the Government of Nunavut isn't the only body involved. We work with many outside organizations and it seems obvious that this will impact the numbers. Partnership also includes working closely with various bodies and progress has been made. It is obviously most noticeable that communities have great ideas at the local level.

Various training, education, healing, healthy living, food security, housing, and economic development are just some of these areas. Income support and food assistance programming is where we are exploring ways to make improvements. A lot of work has been done in this regard. We will be able to respond at a later date while this government still has its mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister said, he will be able to provide a response during the life of this government. When will the minister table a report? Will it be during this sitting, the spring sitting, or the fall sitting? When will the minister table a report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member. As I said, they were working on the first phase. The first phase of the review has been completed and I know that it has been widely

accepted. I expect the report to be tabled in the springtime, if not, perhaps in the fall sitting.

We are making use of the poverty reduction plan and I would like to point out that close to \$258,000 has been expended at the local level to reduce poverty. The communities apply for this funding and that much has been used. I am elaborating on some of the information about the funding that the communities apply for and I wanted to point out that there is a limit to that funding. I would like to table that report in the House during the spring session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. I'll give my other colleagues an opportunity to ask questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're at Family Services. Corporate Management on page D-4. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Minister. Just for clarification first of all, I cannot understand in your business plan on page 139, and in Inuktitut it is on page 148 if you want to see the Inuktitut version of the business plan.

What's confusing me and perhaps if you can tell me, Minister Mike, it states here, (interpretation ends) "Amendments to the *Income Assistance Act* received assent during the 2016 Fall sitting." (interpretation) We are now dealing with Bill 26 in the House, which is part of an amendment for income support. Are we

talking about the same bill or different bills? I don't understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me look into it. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Social Assistance Act* is included in the statement with respect to the *Income Assistance Act*. I would like to ask the director to elaborate further on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mike, which one?

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): The director of the office. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Modesto-Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is referenced on page 139, the *Social Assistance Act* and the *Income Assistance Act*, is the same thing. In September 2016 the department's appearance before the standing committee on the bill to amend the *Social Assistance Act* was deferred to the winter session and we are still waiting for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. It says here this Act was enacted during our session in 2016. Which Act is it that we are talking about that was enacted? We're now dealing with Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*. Are these two different

bills we're talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will clarify that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why it was written like that is last year it remained the same because Bill 26 has been delayed quite a few times for reading. That's why it's written that way. The member is right that we're still working on Bill 26 today, but the members had deferred the reading of the bill I don't know how many times. That's how it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have stated that this has been enacted, even though the bill has not been accepted. The way it is written in English, maybe it says "received assent." The way I understand it is that it became a law. It was enacted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond further to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can correct that,

especially when it seems it needed correction. We have been concerned about the way it is written. Back in the fall of 2016 we thought it would have been addressed. We can do something about the way it is written and change it with proper wording. We all know that Bill 26 has not been enacted and has not received assent yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister Mike, have we been given improper information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Reading this on page 139 in English, (interpretation ends) “Amendments to the *Income Assistant Act* received assent during the 2016 Fall sitting. Work to review the *Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupations Certification Act* continues, with certain amendments already having taken place through changes to regulations.”

(interpretation) I would like to be able to get back to that after I consult our lawyer on what exactly that means. The wording appears to be okay concerning the *Social Assistance Act*. I would feel more confident about it once the lawyer clarifies the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we make decisions based on mistaken or false premises, we can't do our job. Our job is very

important. I believe this is based on mistaken or false thinking.

We all know and you were well aware that the bill did not receive assent from the Commissioner, but in your document it says that it received assent. I'll roll that around in my head. I'm done for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on the list, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. My question is regarding poverty reduction. On page 138 of the business plan it talks about poverty reduction, the division, and it states in here that there are different programs under this initiative and that the programs provide support. I guess my first question on this is: when you talk about support, is that financial support as well and, if so, how do communities access that kind of support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Poverty reduction is done through community initiatives, through consultation or we work with them and that's how the program works. Once we know what the community needs are and we have something to put under consideration, for the reason we have to collaborate with others, they put in proposals for funding depending on community needs and that's where we proceed from. We provide financial support to organizations in accordance with their proposals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister provide us with some examples of programs that the communities have accessed over the couple years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, I'll just use as an example the \$257,790 in the main estimates within Nunavut. That money was spent in 2016 for training in the communities. There were (interpretation ends) Arviat, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Hall Beach, Iqaluit (interpretation) and for cooking courses and harvesting training, the communities that were able to access funding were Kugluktuk, Arviat, Cape Dorset, Igloolik, and Pond Inlet. There were different types of harvest programs which accessed these funds. There were quite a few communities involved, such as Kugaaruk, Baker Lake, Igloolik, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many years now has this initiative been in place where programs such as the ones that you described are being delivered at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's only for 2016 that these initiatives or programs took place. The communities were satisfied and we heard today from the

Pond Inlet MLA that the harvester training program is also part of that. This program was started in 2016 and there's nothing after that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering: in regard to a little over \$3 million for this division, how much is spent on admin versus programming dollars? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll refer this question on poverty reduction programs to the director of corporate services so that she can provide a detailed response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Modesto-Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amounts budgeted for administration under this division, poverty reduction, is over a million dollars. That includes permanent salaries for staff, travel and transportation, materials, supplies, some fees and payments, and contract services. That \$3 million also includes the ongoing contribution to homeless shelters and that's why it comes to over \$3 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How will the department go about evaluating whether or not these programs are actually making a difference on a permanent basis to

poverty reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The corporate director will elaborate on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Modesto-Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a formal evaluation process yet, but what we know is that poverty reduction is an interdepartmental file. Our programs contribute to the work to reduce poverty should be visible in our improvements in income assistance programs, career development programs, support to homeless shelter initiatives, and we have a new program that's called *Inunnguiniq*, parenting and child development initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't quite clear with that. Are the programs that you listed under the poverty reduction programs themselves under the \$3 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Homelessness and *Inunnguiniq* programs are administered together and the dollars that have been identified here, if that's your question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for your response. I'm going to go on to something else. You can correct me if I'm wrong, but I understand that the Department of Family Services is also responsible for accreditation for apprenticeship and trades training. Perhaps I'll start there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I myself have gone through that employment training program, but it's different now. We were under a different program when we were apprentices. I'm not sure the exact words to use, but I can see it. When it's under the Department of Family Services' accreditation programs, the training is part of that, but Nunavut Arctic College is also involved in another part.

If I understand your question correctly, I think you talked about while they're trying to get a certificate when we hear that they have completed their courses. Even if they didn't complete their courses, we can think of alternative ways of how they can complete them and there are different levels of training. We are involved in that. I'm probably not that clear on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recently I was trying to get a better understanding about how accreditation happens at the trades school. It was brought to my attention that there are criteria that need to be met and somebody from your office sits on this committee that decides what that



criteria should be in order to grant somebody with their Red Seal.

In order for Arctic College to be able to deliver such a course, the college needs to meet these standards. I was speaking with somebody who said that some of those standards are not being met because the criteria for offering the courses in order to be able to say that we provide an accredited course were not met because of spacing requirements.

I'm just wondering, with that in mind, how somebody from your office works with Arctic College when it comes to some problems like that. I'll give you an example. They offered culinary school teaching at the trades school, but it's not an accredited course because they actually don't have a commercial kitchen to work in. Somebody from your office actually goes in and looks at all of this stuff. I want to know how they work with Arctic College. How does your department...? Where's the interaction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to training and pre-employment programs, an individual can take training in various fields. One of the areas that we are involved in is in contemplating options for students through the Department of Education, which is the one dealing with the training programs and accreditation. It includes the Red Seal certification, which is the higher level, or even the programs slightly below that level. These are what we are trying based on training needs.

I am aware that Arctic College representatives would better be able to respond here, but I will lightly touch up on the work we are part of. It can include the number of hours, as well as when the level of hours worked are reached within classroom sessions. These are part of this work, but the requirements are constantly being reviewed.

The apprenticeship program is a two-year program, but if we had options on a three- or four-year program, these are the types of details that are explored. It includes the requirements for having specific hours prior to taking the course and whether the person needs more hours as they take the course, or when they are at the trades school, how many hours they need to include as part of their classroom instruction. These issues tend to be discussed.

It is all about trying to increase capacity, which I believe you referred to when you mentioned a cooking course. I believe you mentioned that this course wasn't accredited, but any course that is requested is obviously submitted to the committee setting up local courses. We have a committee that deals with these issues.

However, Nunavut Arctic College is, as I stated earlier, better able to provide the details on the requirements and how it ends up being referred to the Department of Family Services. This is the reason why the concern you expressed would be addressed. Any courses that are requested become clear when training courses are being contemplated. That is how it is set up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although it's true, I was using it as an example, the culinary, about how... . Even though it's a trades school and even though they say they offer the program, because they don't have the kitchen, I think they had to use somewhere outside. That's why I was going into about accreditation, about the criteria.

What do you need in order to have an accredited course where you could get your Red Seal? I know that your department plays a role, but I was just really unsure exactly how your department plays that role. Is it an advisory committee or do they actually write the criteria?

How does the Department of Family Services interact with Nunavut Arctic College in regard to the trades school? I think there are some problems there with being able to offer all courses. I believe that there are quite a few courses that you have to take outside of the territory. That's why I was asking about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for clarifying that. For trades and training in Nunavut there is a committee that was established and usually the committee outlines their strategy, future, and so on and covers the whole training section. This is one of the goals under *Sivumut Abluqta*, which is the government's mandate.

Your question and how we can make it more visible, the Nunavut (interpretation ends) Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification (interpretation) Board is what I was referring to. Complaints can also be directed to the board if they wish to do so.

We will look at the concern you have. We try to do the best we can, but then again, Nunavut Arctic College is also involved in setting up the training program as it's very important when you're trying to get a certificate or a Red Seal in a particular trade. Maybe I can give them the concern you have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak:

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. We look forward to hearing more about how the department is working towards making sure that the proper components are in place at the trades school so that people can get and be accredited for the courses that they take.

In your business plan you also talk about changes made to the *Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupations Certification Act* and you made these changes through the regulations. Can you describe how the regulations have changed and what specific impact this will have on the programs and policies associated with the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) Yes, there are probably five or so that have been identified to the apprenticeship program review; changes to the trade designation order based on consultations with industry; expand the occupational designation order; improve the process to apply for an apprenticeship and that's where you already mentioned about; and to increase promotional activity, visibility, and communications; and work closely with the Nunavut Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Board.

On the legislation proposed changed, I think my DM or my director probably can define it better in terms of the technical side of the proposed minor change. Mr. Chairman, give me a minute here.

(interpretation) I apologize. Our corporate director will give you an explanation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Modesto-Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we have so far is that the apprenticeship program is currently under review and we had it completed around September 2016. Changes will be presented, as the minister stated earlier, identifying those actions that will be included in that review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's really something to look at. We know the trades school is fairly new, we want it to work well, and we want to try to have the whole course

to be delivered in Nunavut. In that way I am really interested in how your department works with Nunavut Arctic Collage when it comes to accreditation and the Red Seal. I think there needs to be a really close relationship there.

(interpretation) That's all. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) that was just a comment.

**Chairman:** It's just a comment. Next name on the list, Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister, the deputy minister, and the director.

The question I was going to ask was asked already. Perhaps I will refer back to your opening comments if you would allow me. Can I begin?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I have a question on your opening comments in the Inuktitut copy on page 2. In the proposed 2017-18 main estimates for the Department of Family Services the operating budget is \$113,162,000, which is an increase of 0.3 percent, or \$419,000, over last year's main estimates. "The staff complement for the department has increased from 216.63 PYs in 2016-17 to 228.7 PYs in the proposed 2017-18 main estimates." Can you elaborate further on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. The \$138,262,000 is \$3 million less than last year's budget. As I indicated earlier, the elders' homes now fall under the Department of

Health. The budget of \$138 million is an increase of 0.3 percent, which is not even 1 percent, or \$419,000.

I can't really tell you exactly where that slight increase is, but the staff complement for the department has increased from 216 PYs in 2016-17 to almost 229 PYs in the 2017-18 main estimates. Those have been approved and funded, but there are approximately 154 PYs and there are quite a large number of vacancies. I would like you to know that in 2017-18 there are 228 PYs, but we have to make sure that they're properly funded and there are a lot of vacancies.

The \$419,000, as I indicated earlier in my opening comments, is geared towards suicide prevention. *Inunnguiniq* and parenthood are also dealt with so that new and young parents get training on proper child rearing. I also mentioned that suicide prevention is covered and for child sexual abuse that need to be addressed. That's out of the \$419,000 towards suicide prevention and child sexual abuse. We have to provide support for victims of child sexual abuse and this is where the \$419,000 has been added for those programs.

Everything else has remained pretty much the same. There are some changes, but they don't increase the amount of money. \$138 million might sound like a lot, but it's not. The amount of \$138 million is what you as members have identified and we think this will be adequate for now to provide those types of programs that I mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that explanation. Victims of child sexual abuse are scarred for the rest of their lives, so it's very important that we provide services to those individuals who need help. It's something that's very sad and sometimes leads to suicide. Once a suicide is committed, all of Nunavut is affected.

You indicated that there are still quite a number of vacancies. Due to the importance of these positions, within the 2016-17 plans towards the end of the fiscal year, I wonder if the positions you referenced can be filled that are related to suicide prevention and sexual abuse. Will all of these positions be filled or do you anticipate them remaining vacant, even though this is a very important sector? Can you please clarify that for me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. I believe we mentioned the 228 funded positions that have been approved. As I stated earlier, there are only 154 positions that have been filled out of those 228 positions. Further, the seven community positions related to child and family protection services where the social workers for this branch will be employed include Arctic Bay as one of the listed communities.

With respect to suicide prevention efforts, once the positions are filled, it would alleviate some of the problems we face. The social workers in the communities are also being trained in the changes to the operations of the Department of Family Services and how they can better support their clients.

They are aware of these challenges. However, training and education are two areas we are trying to increase our efforts.

We all concur that suicide is unacceptable. I have experienced it personally, as I lost a family member, and you get placed in a very difficult situation. I have first-hand knowledge. Once a person has suicidal thoughts and wants to commit suicide, nobody can stop them. I have experienced this myself. Even though we offer everything to benefit our relatives, they can still commit suicide unexpectedly. Even when provided with resources they need, loving care and life experiences, once a person has suicidal thoughts, even if they are in a good place or not, the decision that I am talking about can occur.

When I experienced suicide, I happened to read an article from the United States to determine how others have dealt with their losses. Last year approximately 44,000 people committed suicide. 44,000 people! What have the survivors undergone?

With the idea of suicide prevention and building up particular measures to help those at risk, we may have some success in preventing suicides. Even with all of these efforts, if people don't care about the impact and don't bother with the individual who may be suicidal, the government could introduce all sorts of laws and funding, but you can't change the mind of a person who has become suicidal.

It is obvious that suicide prevention is a good idea, but it is obvious that as a government and the Department of

Family Services, we are trying to assist in programs to combat suicide and looking at ways to combat suicidal thoughts. It has been the subject of much study and work for many years.

Again, we welcome anybody who may have a personal initiative. If they can identify themselves, it would really provide tangible assistance, even if it is outside of our government programs. However, what I am referencing here are the services Nunavummiut feel are part of what is missing in this area, my colleague. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Shooyook

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister, as quality of life is exceedingly important and it is a critical matter. In following *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit*, there are experts in our communities, although the numbers are dwindling.

I wonder if this position can only be handled by people with formal education related to life counselling skills. As an example, we have nurses who are educated in mental health. I know of a few elders who have the same level of knowledge but specific to traditional ways that are used to decipher whether certain lifestyles can become problematic.

Is using *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* completely out of the picture? Can you clarify that for my understanding about traditional Inuit counselling? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Trying to have a good quality of life is supported by the Department of Family Services and the different government departments that are trying to do something about it.

When a request is submitted by a community or if an enquiry has been submitted on the issue related to the quality of life or healthy living, collaboration is the first part of that. Further, the mandate of the government is to abide by the eight Inuit cultural principles listed and that is the foundation of the work we try to accomplish. They are included in this process.

I am aware that residents without formal training provide assistance outside of government practices by using the traditional Inuit cultural knowledge. It is now a requirement as more anecdotal evidence supports this knowledge. Earlier today the Minister of Culture affirmed that when he was asked about the issue. Yes, we are trying to use Inuit values, specifically revolving around collaboration and partnership where the quality of life can be improved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. Again, it will be contingent on funding availability, as the quality of life will require operational funding. As you stated earlier, Arctic Bay has been included in this initiative and this is gratifying. Nevertheless, operational funding will be required.

I want to ask when you could hire people in Arctic Bay in the short-term future, such as 2018, as it will have to include the housing related to the position. My question is: when will this work commence and in which fiscal year? I would like clarification on the dates. Can you elaborate further? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Requests for office space have been proceeding. Because of the fact that there was no office space, we have been using CGS to help us find office space. I know that they have been looking for office space and they're working on it. Arctic Bay is included. There were some office spaces that were approved. This is not new information. We have been looking for office spaces for the staff of the Department of Family Services. It has not proceeded because of the lack of space. There have been some requests for proposals looking for office space in the affected communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're on page D-4. Next name on the list, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

The first question I would like to ask is in your opening comments on page 4 under the Income Assistance Branch. It states here, "people 18 years of age and over and their dependants." What does that mean? I'm asking that for

clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. If I understand the question correctly, it means that if you are over the age of 18, you're eligible for income support. I believe that is the question. If they live in Nunavut, that is what it says and that is a plan for the future. It's an effort to help people become more independent and if necessary, they can get income support. That is what it's trying to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question was already asked about poverty reduction. I would like clarification and I'll ask about it. It wasn't actually asked, but it was sort of touched up on.

The things that are sold in the stores in the smaller communities are the most expensive in all of Nunavut, if not the entire world. What are your thoughts on the store owners? Will this initiative help the stores to be able to provide more food for the people that need income support? I hope I was clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that retail stores in any community in Nunavut have very different prices. For example, because of the small airstrip in Pangnirtung, everything that is brought

in is raised by 30 percent even before they get the store markup.

The Department of Family Services is always trying to find solutions along with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to do something about the high cost of food and other items.

Through the Canadian government's Nutrition North program, we're always trying to see how we can maximize its impact on food prices. If the policy was changed and if the Nutrition North program was changed, we could look more closely on the food consumed by young people and children and how to make greater reductions for their benefit under the Nutrition North Canada Program. My department as well tries to teach proper money management when it comes to budgeting for food. That's what we try to promote to them. It is very hard to work on the store prices because we can't control what prices they charge.

Under existing legislation, the Department of Family Services is working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit organizations. We also work along with the Department of Family Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Environment, the Department of Culture, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, the Department of Health, the Department of Justice, the Department of Finance, the housing corporation, Community and Government Services, and the groups in the communities or anyone or private businesses, hamlets and communities. I

wanted to explain who we're working in trying to do something about the high cost of food. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question about something else. Suicide prevention was touched up on earlier. We know that suicide prevention is very challenging work. As the minister was talking about it, the mind can be very strong; it can be even stronger than the physical body. Our elders have talked about it and it's very true what they say, although I've never had to go through it.

The question I would like to pose is: does the staff in your department work with other groups like NTI, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and other RIAs, the government, the Department of Justice, Health, or the federal government? Do you work with any of those groups on suicide prevention? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With suicide prevention, the work is done in collaboration with the Department of Health. The Government of Nunavut tabled a suicide prevention initiative plan to lower the numbers of suicides in Nunavut. This initiative was quite strong. The groups I mentioned are our partner agencies, all three regional Inuit associations, as they also have their own initiatives designed for that. It included how government can provide more resources to combat suicide. There are quite a number of organizations that are involved in this initiative.

Furthermore, with the numbers of groups already involved and with various departments in the Nunavut government, pretty well all departments are involved. The Department of Family Service has primarily taken on the suicide prevention file. As I stated earlier, the social workers from the Children and Family Services Branch will be involved. This includes the various matters that I already alluded to earlier about child abuse, whether it is sexual abuse, or in trying to teach Inuit social skills. These are various means that our department can utilize.

However, we are working in conjunction with many organizations. As well, over the five years that the groups have worked together, NTI and the Department of Family Services, amongst others, will work to come up with new plans. This is being done in partnership with the Department of Health. This involves plans and work timelines. Yes, it is quite a challenging issue, but I just spoke to what our department is involved in now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to a different topic, please let me know if I'm asking questions on the wrong page, but I want to get clarification on the opening comments. I'll read it in English.

In the (interpretation ends) Director of Child and Family Services 2015-16 Annual Report (interpretation) specifically related to the protection of children and youth, it speaks to the protection of a child, including perhaps teenagers. In relation to this usage of the



word “child,” what is the definition or age category? I would like clarification on this matter and that is why I am asking about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps you can allow my deputy minister to respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to child-related services in the 2015 report that he referred to where it speaks to children requiring protection, it ranges from 12 to 16 years of age. We provide different levels of services, for example, following the legislation that mandates our work. Although there aren't too many references to adults, if they have any kind of disability, then the Department of Family Services provides assistance to them. Regarding foster children as well as apprehended children, the ages range from 12 and younger. If the child is 12 or 14 years of age, the support has to be provided following the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I raised that question because it is related to social counselling services. When an Inuk deals with counselling services, irrespective of their age or stage in life, if they are suffering from mental health issues, they may become suicidal at any

time and it would be hard to determine that.

Taking that into consideration of a child who may have experienced abusive situations, they may become distressed. When they become distressed, they may become suicidal as well. I wonder how social workers would be able to provide immediate counselling. With this government, would there need to be triggers to initiate that? Mr. Chairman, this will be my second-last question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. In my opening comments I said that child sexual abuse is linked to suicide. As the Department of Family Services, we are working on various ways with the Nunavut government in regard to this issue along with the Department of Health. As the Department of Family Services, I'm sure that in our action plan for child rearing, child sexual abuse is one of our priorities.

Our priority for fiscal year 2017-18 is to deal with child sexual abuse and reduce its incidence. There has to be improvements we can make and that is why we are starting to make plans based on proper child rearing. I am continually talking about the need to deal with this pressing issue. With the Department of Family Services' plan, suicide prevention is included in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're at Family Services. Corporate Management. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to ask another question. I would like to get clarification on funding for homelessness and poverty reduction. It's included on page D-4 under Corporate Management. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister: how do you define a person being homeless? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the Department of Family Services, their clients can become homeless when their home burns down. There are various programs for the homeless. You can become homeless by either being evicted from your home or it could be absolute homelessness outside of an emergency, becoming homeless from an actual unit. That's the definition. I know that there might be some people living in shacks and tents, not a real house. If they become homeless from a house, they can be considered as homeless. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If an individual lives in a shack, are they considered not homeless or if they live in a tent, under your definition, they are not homeless? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Well, we now live in large apartment buildings. A person who is not living in these units is called homeless. That is the definition of homeless. Today we may

live in a house with bedrooms or in public housing units. If there is an individual who lives outside of public housing, when they have no home, they are called homeless. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to have a complete understanding on this issue, if the person isn't in a housing corporation housing unit or in a government staff housing unit and they don't own a private home, is that the definition of a homeless person? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Yes, that's the definition. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that to me. I have been asking this question for the last five years now perhaps. Thank you for the clarification.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to get back to an error. First of all, Mr. Chairman, I apologize to you and let me apologize to my colleagues. When I referred to the amendments to the Act having received assent, I said it was on page 139. I apologize. I had the January business plan, but it's on page 138 in the new business plan. I was off by one page. I was looking at January's business plan. I know that the status has not changed, even though it's on page 138. The status of that has not changed, but I apologize for using the January business plan. We

got the updated version and I was off by a page, but the sentence remains the same. I apologize first of all.

Mr. Chairman, in regard to the status that's written in the business plan, it says that the Act received assent. Minister Mike, you said that it received assent during the fall sitting. I think it's evident and again I might be wrong because we all make mistakes. I believe that the status needs correction. I believe that you agreed that this needs correction. I would like to ask you, Minister Mike: can you agree with me that the status here is written wrong? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said before, I want to leave it at that because I want to check the way it is written with our lawyer. I want to check it with our legal counsel before the completion of the review.

Perhaps someone from the Department of Justice can assist me in regard to this. I would like to look into it first so that I can respond accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will allow Minister Mike to consider this and he needs to consult with a legal counsel. Therefore I move that the consideration of the proposed 2017-18 main estimates of the Department of Family Services be deferred. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook, do you have a translated copy of your motion?

We have to get the motion translated, so we will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 18:13 and resumed at 18:28*

**Chairman:** I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. There's a motion in front of you. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to procedures.

Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes.

The mover of the motion speaks first.

The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate.

To the motion. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way the motion is written is very clear on the intent, so I'm just asking for support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** To the motion. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before the motion is passed, I would like to apologize to the House for the error now that I am aware of it. It is an error. It should have stated in English... . The wording is wrong. (interpretation ends) At the time the business plan was

drafted, assent was anticipated. (interpretation ends) That's how it was supposed to be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the mover have... ? To the motion. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on Minister Mike's comments, I withdraw my motion. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're on page D-4. Family Services. Corporate Management. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity. In reference to the minister's, it's clearly written in error. I would to ask, has the incorrect wording affect any part of your business plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): No, it doesn't affect anything else.

**Chairman:** Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Mike: as soon as a replacement page with proper wording is available, can you provide that copy for us to keep? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Yes, I can provide one.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Family Services. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$8,471,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page D-5. Family Services. Children and Family Services. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short question for clarification. I think this is for residential care due to lack of facilities in Nunavut for people with mental health issues or who need continuing care. I think that's in there. I think I have asked the minister in the House before on this issue. Yes, I have asked him before when we were in question period.

With respect to clients sent outside of Nunavut, when they reach 20 years of age, they can only be visited once annually. There are regulations pertaining to this matter. Further, the minister responded that he would look into the matter about this singular visit. I want to ask the minister a question. I wonder if this is mentioned in the business plan and whether this has been changed based on the request to review this requirement.

Some clients don't mature even when they reach the age of majority, where they require constant care. I had asked that this be looked into, as they rarely ever become an adult mentally. I refer to those who require constant care, as this requirement is cut off when they reach the age of 20, where visitation is reduced to once a year. Has this been dealt with at all to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have dealt with that matter. Actually there will be a slight amendment which will not cost extra. The change is the number of visitations, which I believe you asked about in the House earlier.

With respect to client care outside of Nunavut and the visitation rights, they can visit the client twice a year. This includes up to two people visiting twice. Now the change will go from two visits a year up to four visits a year and that is the proposed change. There are four main visits that occur usually twice a year.

At this time, based on what we have observed in working on this file to change it from two family members that visit, it is to allow more flexibility so that four visits a year can be scheduled. A family member would be able to visit four times a year. The current requirements are to have two visitors per visit and they visit twice a year. That is how it is set up currently. That is the change listed in the 2017-18 business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the understandable response I just listened to, so I thank you, Mr. Minister. In reviewing the main estimates, the figures seem lower than last year's figures. With that being the case and the proposed changes you mentioned, I wonder if the numbers of clients sent south are

decreasing. I wanted to know if, based on these lower numbers, the funding request seems lower than last year. This is just for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This only looks like a decrease because the public guardian used to be in the Children and Family Services Branch and it was moved somewhere else. The amounts for operations and maintenance didn't change. There may have been a slight increase. We simply took out the public guardianship from this branch summary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank her for that clear response. Once the main estimates are approved, this will start on April 1. Is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it will start on April 1. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question on your business plan, 142, under the Family Violence Services. There's a slight decrease in funding of about \$720,000, I believe. That's for community social services workers to provide family violence intervention services. Can you just explain about why the budget has seemed to have gone down a bit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll refer that to the director to provide a clear response with respect to funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That decrease of \$720,000 is due to... . We created a number of positions in Iqaluit to support Child Protection Services in the Iqaluit office. That is also coming from contribution agreements. However, under that program we added funding to provide community-based training to support our shelter programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't understand that. You said that there is funding for shelters and that, but the funding has gone down. Is

that through a different means? Can you explain that a little bit better, please? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The director will also respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$700,000 decrease is used to create positions for Child Protection Services in our Iqaluit office since we have more than 500 cases that we have to address. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I understand now. On the same page you have the adult support services and it's \$738,000. It has been like that. From what I can tell, it hasn't changed. This is to support services to eligible adults with disabilities. Can you provide us with a sense of how much this service or these funds have been accessed? At the end of the fiscal year how much of this budget is left over, if any? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The director will also respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That amount is actually close to budget every year. That is the cost related to our client travel in all communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does one access that support? Is it through a contribution? Is there a call-out? Do you go through established organizations like hamlets, or how does this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question once again to our director. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That money is accessed through an arrangement of client travel for family members and that's paid through our travel and transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still don't have a very good understanding of how this program works. Are you saying family members who travel with other family members that have disabilities, or do they go on

holidays, or what's the travel for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question once again to our director. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Vardy.

**Ms. Modesto-Vardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is client travel support that we provide to family members who are visiting our clients. That could be our clients who are staying in residential care outside of the territory or it could be travel for our clients coming from down south visiting their families. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, do you have any more questions? Go ahead.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you very much. I understand now. Thank you. Again on the same page under Social Advocacy, there's the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council and you provide funding through a contribution agreement that hasn't been increased for several years. Have you looked at the funding amounts for the status of women? Have you reviewed it and, if so, why hasn't it increased? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this to my deputy minister. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of this funding, \$250,000, goes to Qullit for their funding and to operate their board and their offices. They have not requested increase in funding. That's how come it's staying the same. They have an office here. They have an active board. We have not received any increase requests. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Qullit women council, can you tell me how much involvement the department has with this council, for example, maybe looking at some priorities perhaps or any kind of interaction, if any? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will elaborate on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister Ell-Kanayuk is the responsible minister for this portfolio. The minister writes an expectation letter from the board. They also have meetings and they're also provided what might be a priority for Nunavut; an example, to look into violence in the communities and different things that Minister Ell-Kanayuk feels that they should look at.

This year they got the expectation letter from the minister.

They are an arm's-length group, but we have a staff person in Family Services that works with them, not to advise them but with the administration or when they're planning for meetings. We have a connection with them, but they're at arm's length. They do what they need to do. We just fund them and also the minister provides them with a letter of expectation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a bit more about the Nunavut Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society. It's \$100,000. I think it has been at that level as well for quite some time. Have you received any requests for an increase in that budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** No. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What kind of interaction does the department have with this society, if any? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you. Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavummi Disabilities



Makinnasuaqtiit Society is supported by the Department of Family Services. We represent them at times outside of Nunavut, especially with the federal government. We provide the funds to the disabilities society. Nunavut Tunngavik is involved with the society for the benefit of beneficiaries with disabilities. They seek to have them provide with better services and to also lobby to have the concerns for the disabled heard and understood. Thank you.

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I want to go to residential care and it's in your business plan. Again, it's something that my colleague, Mr. Mapsalak, made reference to. What I would like to know, you have gone down by \$4 million, but out of the \$30 million, how much of that is spent inside the territory and how much is spent outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's approximately \$35 million for residential care facilities. There are 58 facilities operated within Nunavut and cost approximately \$8,286,000 and it's approximately \$27,178,000 for outside of Nunavut and there are 181 facilities under contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of the \$27 million that is spent on Nunavummiut that have to be

out of territory, do you have the details where you can tell us how much of that is spent on children under the age of 19 and how much of that is for adult residential care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the details in front of me, but I would like to refer this question to either my deputy minister or the director. My deputy minister will respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 19 years of age, we don't have the details in front of us, but we would like to get those clients back here in Nunavut. We had given a contract to use the youth centre and we would like to get more of our clients up here as long as there are mental health workers and doctors. I don't have the details for how much was spent and for what ages they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Ms. Angnakak

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if the department can provide that through our Chair, then we can all get that information.

You made reference to the youth or children's home. I forget what we call it. *Inuusilirivik*? I don't know. The children's residential place that we had in Iqaluit that was shut down, can you give us the status update on that and

what's going on with that facility?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation):  
Thank you for that question. As my deputy minister indicated, we had signed a contract. We had stated at one point that we would like to repatriate the clients that are in residential care outside of Nunavut.

I looked at the unit and there are eight beds available. Three are already here from Nunavut and we would like to repatriate some of the clients who are in residential care outside of Nunavut. I am happy about these developments and that there is going to be a slight increase in the people at the residential care unit.

If there is a requirement to go to school, they would be going to the schools and we would also like to see them participate in community activities. There are more than 10 that we have identified so far, especially outdoor activities for young girls. We will make sure that they are active mentally and physically. We see a huge improvement since we changed the contract, especially for young girls.

I thank you for asking that question.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. That is very good to hear. I look forward to hearing more about that.

I haven't got much time, so I would like to ask a question about adoption

services. It's a small budget basically. I guess what I am more interested in is to find out how much or what role the department plays when it comes to custom adoption. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): I guess you're asking about the Inuit way of adoption. It has been recognized in law. Here we use commissioners to perform custom adoptions. If an Inuk is going to be adopted, the regional Inuit associations are involved. We want to make the system stronger for the good of Inuit children. It's a unique law and it's a commendable law. It recognizes the traditional Inuit way of adoptions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question on this topic, when we saw the privacy commissioner, one of the things that she raised was concern over information being shared back and forth between the regional Inuit associations, the government, families, and that. In regard to the privacy issues over this kind of service, what has been your working relationship with the privacy commissioner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Custom adoptions are recognized under aboriginal law and the Inuit ways under that. Basically custom adoption is run under an Act.

I would like my deputy minister to respond to your question about the privacy commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department is working really well with RIAs because we must advise them when adoption takes place. The concern was how they are protecting the privacy of the personal information. We have been meeting with them, RIAs, and working with them to make sure that the personal information that we provide to them is protected. They have worked really well together. We do report back to the standing committee on our progress on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When there's an adoption taking place, for example, if somebody here in Nunavut, a Nunavummiuq, she comes to Iqaluit to have her baby and somebody from outside of the territory wants to adopt the baby, what role does your department have in that kind of situation? Do you know about that adoption? How do you track it? How do you know what's going on with babies being adopted outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. According to the law there are three different types of adoptions.

There's one called the departmental adoption where the director of children and family services can go through the courts and do that.

There are private adoptions. Even though they are called private adoptions, they make their own agreements between families, but they have to follow the law.

If a child is going to be adopted outside of Nunavut, then they have to follow applicable laws as well. For any adoption of an Inuk that is going to be adopted outside of Nunavut, the regional Inuit organizations would be involved and the adoption commissioner has to be involved.

If I didn't answer the question fully enough, my deputy minister can expand on my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) She asked in English, so I'll reply in English.

We do know that the adoption will be taking place. When we know, wherever the person who is adopting has to have a home visit done in that province. We had a situation that took place that we had to deal with about somebody who was looking for adoptive parents through social media. We worked with that individual and we were able to work it out at the community level.

When we know that adoption is taking place and it's a private arrangement between an aboriginal person and a non-

aboriginal family, we do communicate with that province to make sure that the adoption documents are done and a home study is done so that the adoption could be finalized.

We had quite a lot of people adopted. In 2013 there were 41, but in 2016 we had 20 that we know of. As soon social workers know, they work with other provinces. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes we hear of things that happen where, for example, an out-of-territory family has come to Nunavut because they're going to adopt a baby. There's some kind of an arrangement made. I understand that the family adopting or going to adopt has to stay in the territory before papers are signed off for 10 days, before the final adoption papers are signed. Sometimes the mother changes her mind after a while before the 10 days are over.

I guess what I'm trying to get a better understanding of is the involvement of your department, if any. I don't know. Who provides counselling maybe to the mother who wants to change her mind or to the people that have come all this way to get their baby and then have to go home empty-handed because minds have been changed? They could be.

If you can just give me a better understanding, does your department get involved with anything like that and, if not, who provides some oversight to help guide situations like this when they become very complex, difficult and hurtful? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question and like my DM said, there have been really good consultations with Inuit associations to facilitate communications.

To deal with the oversight of the process, when an Inuk child is being adopted, that's the area that we want to improve. The adoption Act, whether it would be custom or not, then the Inuit associations have a major role to play in that because it's an Inuk being involved in that process.

(interpretation) Because of that we want to improve the way we handle it and adoption is handled through the Department of Family Services. Within the communities of Nunavut, Department of Family Services staff are really involved during adoptions.

As the minister, I share your concern. We have to follow the regulations. With the Inuit way of adopting, I did that. I adopted using custom adoption. There were no concerns because it was a complete family matter. Your question may have to do with children that are adopted by different races. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're on Children and Family Services. Family Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$55,897,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will take a five-minute break. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 19:12 and resumed at 19:21*

**Chairman:** Hello, Inuit. I will call the committee meeting back to order. We're on page D-6. Family Services. Income Assistance. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would first like to ask about income support clients. The income support worker usually looks at the income information of the client if the client had earned some money. The client might earn some money not through work but by many other means like winning something and that's what some unemployed people usually do. When they go apply for income support, does the money that they earned not through employment get clawed back? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure who to refer his question to, as I don't know in detail about this, but I can use an example. The winnings of an income support client, I hear, can be clawed back.

Mr. Chairman, I think my officials can respond to that question better than I can. Please wait a moment. My deputy minister will respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The earnings of income support clients, however they earned it, will be clawed back from their income support. We consulted with all

the communities as to how we can improve this program. It includes the earnings. They wanted to partially claw back some of the earnings and that's in our plans. Today, if they earn some money by winning or anyhow they earn money, it will be clawed back from their income support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a limit on the earnings? If they receive money not through working, is there a maximum or minimum when you can claw back some funds from the income support client? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My officials have to look into that. I do want to understand exactly what the limits are. Mr. Chairman, I would like the opportunity to get back to the member's question once we get that information. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will expect the information so that we know when they start clawing back the funds.

I am moving on to a different topic. More than once there have been proposed amendments for income support programs for elders, senior citizen supplementary benefits, and the senior fuel subsidy in 2016-17. Will you be making amendments to this program

some time in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program will remain the same for the senior fuel subsidy. I believe he is asking questions in regard to the senior fuel subsidy.

In 2015 the senior homeowners' fuel subsidy was increased. For 2016-17 the fuel subsidy will remain the same for homeowners, if that's what he's asking about. There will be no changes for 2016-17. As of January 31, 2017 there were 108 Nunavut seniors that received fuel subsidies for 2016-17. There was an increase for up to 3,500 litres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The income support delivery system has been in development for some time. Your business plan indicates that a number of training sessions were held for income support workers in 2016-17 with a focus on using the new system. Have those training sessions proven effective in improving the delivery of income assistance across the territory of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Yes, we continually work to improve them as well through the installation of computer systems. Training for staff is ongoing. An electronic file system is a great improvement. It is faster and increases the productivity of the staff.

That is how it is set up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount of funding to be allocated to social assistance contributions is projected to decrease in 2017-18. Can the minister clarify what factors are contributing to the projected decrease in the need for social assistance support across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the decrease, if the member can state exactly where it is situated in social assistance. There's income support funding and then there's funding agreements that are in place as well. I'm asking the member exactly which projected decrease he is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot even tell you which page, but it states here that the amount of funding to be allocated to the social assistance contribution is projected to decrease in 2017-18. I was asking about the projected decrease in the need for social assistance support across Nunavut. What are the factors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to the allocated social assistance contribution that is

made available, it is projected to decrease. I can provide the reasons for this decrease if we're talking about the same thing. There's corporate management, which is around \$225,000, and for the new position of a human resources specialist, \$128,000, as well as another \$316,000. All these items are for salaries and staff development here in Iqaluit. There will also be additional staff positions created in Iqaluit. That is the primary change in this item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're at Family Services. Income Assistance. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is maybe more of a clarification. In your opening comments on page 5 you state in the second paragraph there or the first full paragraph, "In order to serve the growing needs of our communities, funding will be allocated to provide six part-time income assistance worker positions in the communities of Clyde River, Igloolik, Sanikiluaq, Arviat, Gjoa Haven, and Kugaaruk." Are these new positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, these are new positions, the six part-time income assistance worker positions in those communities that he just mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's always welcoming to see a new position come into our smaller

communities in Nunavut. Currently we have an income support worker and I think there is another income support worker. There are two of them in the office and one of them has a regular office, but the other one is working out of a storage room. Where are you going to find the office space for this third worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In looking for office space, we will be working with Community and Government Services for that purpose of hiring new positions. We have to work with CGS on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has your department contacted Community and Government Services yet to start consulting on office space for this new position? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): I apologize. As I stated, when we start planning this, we work with the departments that are involved. With the positions we just identified, as Family Services alone, we cannot work on office space. These things are considered, especially by CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand it's the responsibility of Community and Government Services to provide the

office space, but it's the responsibility of the Department of Family Services to inform the department that they need extra office space. My question is: have they talked to the department about acquiring office space? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): As I stated earlier, when we start planning for these positions, CGS gets involved. Yes, that is the case right now. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the next few days I will follow up with Community and Government Services and see where they are with acquiring office space for this position.

When do you anticipate having these positions filled, those six positions that we are discussing right now? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's in our business plan for 2017-18. That's what this is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just leave it at that for now.

My next question is regarding a process in order before an income support client can qualify for income support. In our communities they have to first go to the income support office and they are given some sort of forms where they have to

go to businesses and have managers sign whether there is any work available for the clients or not. In our smaller communities there are only a few places that hire people and the turnover rate is very low.

I have asked the minister this question in committee before. I'm just wondering if your department is looking at an alternate way of doing this process to speed it up. Right now a person goes in income support, they have to take this paper and if they have no transportation, they have to walk around town to these businesses, probably carrying children on their backs, and have to go and get these papers signed, then return to the income support office to see if they qualify for any funding. Has the government looked at any ways of simplifying that process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. As we have already stated, after the review of things that need to be changed, this is one of the items slated to be changed. Presently it's still the same, but it will start changing. We're working on what needs to be changed right now.

This is part of that review on the job search forms. That's presently being worked on so that it can be changed to make it a simpler process for the benefit of people looking for jobs within a community. It's obvious that jobs are more limited in smaller communities. It's our aim to make this process easier and accessible, which is what I would like my colleague to know. Thank you.



**Chairman:** Thank you. Family Services. Income Assistance. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$53,803,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Career Development. Family Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$20,091,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go back to page D-3. Department Summary. Family Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$138,262,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Family Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Closing comments, Minister Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleagues. I have to thank my officials that are here with me. They run the corporate offices very well.

I would especially like to thank the social workers in the communities for performing their duties and providing assistance to those who need help and protection.

I also thank the foster parents. Sometimes they become the real parents. I would especially like to thank them if they're watching. Within Nunavut there

are a lot of foster parents through Family Services. I especially thank them.

I also thank you, committee members.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the witness table. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): I 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.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has 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. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Allan Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for tomorrow there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board at ten o'clock at the Tuktu Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for March 7:

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

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 32
- Bill 33
- Bill 34
- Bill 35

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 7, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:48*

