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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickee, Mr. David Joanasie, 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): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

>>*Prayer*

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

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 271 – 4(3):
Summer Student Employment
Equity Program**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the Government of Nunavut is now accepting applications from Nunavut

students for summer work experience with our government departments and public agencies.

The Summer Student Employment Equity Program is an opportunity for secondary and post-secondary Nunavummiut students to gain meaningful work experience within the Nunavut public service.

Mr. Speaker, this program fosters youth development, encourages continuous learning, and creates a pool of qualified employees for our government.

In my recent Budget Address, I highlighted that last year we hired a record 249 students, 202 of whom were Nunavut Inuit students, who worked in 24 communities across our territory. I also said that this year we want to hire even more students and that is where my colleagues can help.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all my colleagues to share this information with students in their own communities in order to ensure that the 2017 program is as successful as or better than last year's.

Mr. Speaker, students can find out more information on the summer student page on the Department of Finance's website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 272 – 4(3):
Qullit Nunavut Status of Women
Council**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Mr. Speaker, March 8 is International Women's Day. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I am honoured to rise today to highlight the activities accomplished by the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council, as you may have seen in their 2015-16 annual report that I tabled yesterday.

In 2015-16 the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council saw many new developments, including the launch of their new website and the appointment of three new members to the council: Elisapee Sheutiapik, President, Verna Strickland, Vice-president, and Elizabeth Lyall, Board Member.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the council has continued to engage in the following yearly projects: Wise Woman Awards, International Women's Day, December 6 National Day of Remembrance, and the Qullit Leadership Bursary. The council also partnered with CBC North to launch a new initiative, Raising Our Voices, which featured poems, songs, stories, and reflections presented by Nunavummiut to raise awareness and take action to end violence.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services provides \$250,000 in annual core funding to the council through a contribution agreement. Council priorities for 2016-17 include:

- Preventing violence against women and girls and consider the underlying

factors which place them at higher risk of abuse;

- Seeking community-based solutions to create safer homes, families and communities;
- Increasing public awareness that family violence is unacceptable;
- Exploring second-stage housing for women and children fleeing family violence; and
- Encouraging women's leadership skills, participation in community and political decision-making.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 273 – 4(3):
Thank You to Volunteer
Firefighters**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express gratitude to the volunteer firefighters in Kugaaruk for their efforts in dealing with the fire at the school last week. It was a very dangerous situation and there were many demands being placed on the firefighters, including the extreme cold that they faced.

Although the school could not be saved, the firefighters, along with other hamlet workers, took measures to prevent damages to the hamlet office and most importantly the adjacent power plant facility. This response demonstrates how our volunteer firefighters put the needs of others ahead of themselves to keep their communities safe from harm. We

thank you for your actions and you are absolutely vital to our communities.

I would like to recognize the Kugaaruk firefighters by name. Mr. Speaker, the firefighters are:

Fire Chief Vincent Ningark
Gaetan Apsaktaun
Etienne Kakkianiun
Philippe Alakannuark
Adam Krejunark
Frankie Immingark Sr.
Kyle Amautinuak
Jonathan Ningark
Adrian Qauqjuaq
Norman Qavvik
Colin Krejunark
Pauloosie Nungaq
Fabian Qirngnuq
Frankie Immingark Jr.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to recognize the heroic efforts of local residents who immediately rushed to the scene, as well as the water truck operators and heavy equipment operators. Each and every one played a vital role and we are proud of their bravery.

The next steps will focus on helping the community rebuild and move forward. The Department of Community and Government Services will continue to provide support to the community in the ongoing efforts to resolve this issue as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 274 – 4(3): Fur Production Program

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to congratulate the graduates of the Fur Production Program recently offered in Kugaaruk. This was a huge hit and the final products are beautiful.

Mr. Speaker, the 12-week program provided five students in Kugaaruk the ability to focus on design and pattern development of garments and accessories of skin or fur, such as seal, caribou, polar bear, fox, or wolf.

The adult educator brought in several elders from the community to teach parts of the production process and how to make a traditional sewing kit and sewing sealskin into kamiit.

Mr. Speaker, fur production is an inherent part of Inuit culture. Storytelling and experiential learning took place with both instructors and the elders who were asked to be guest speakers. The elders were pleased to see that their skills were being passed on to the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the next intake of students into the Fur Production Program in the fall of 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 275 – 4(3):
Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear
Subpopulation Survey**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform my colleagues that, with the collaboration and support of Parks Canada, Manitoba Sustainable Development, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and local hunters who acted as spotters, my department successfully completed a follow-up aerial survey for the western Hudson Bay polar bear population during August of 2016.

As you are aware, my department has taken seriously the concerns brought forward by Nunavummiut about the handling of wildlife during surveys, and as a result we have developed alternative monitoring tools that are less invasive. Aerial surveys, where polar bears are counted from an aircraft, allow us to gain a “snapshot” in time of a population without needing to handle the animals at all, and when repeated surveys are carried out, the trend of the population becomes apparent over time.

Mr. Speaker, data collected from this aerial survey is currently being analyzed, and we can expect to have a final report and results available by early June 2017. My department will conduct consultations with all the affected communities at that time and we will work together to come up with recommendations for the best way to sustainably manage this subpopulation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

I'm sorry. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 508 – 4(3):
Celebrating International
Women's Day**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As today is International Women's Day, I am very ecstatic to rise today.

I also rise to show off my waistcoat, which is the first time I have ever worn it, as it was made by my maternal aunt prior to her passing, Aippaani Iga. She tried to complete it for me, without my knowledge, and without completing she unfortunately passed away. I then asked my niece, who is a very good seamstress, Mina Akavak, to finish it and she completed the work. I take this opportunity today to acknowledge them both today on the sewn garment I am wearing today and for having thought of me enough to complete the garment. I extend my gratitude to them.

Women are very capable of undertaking any activity anywhere. They also form an integral part of our lives. I barely caught the last years of this woman who was my great-grandmother and her name was Aasivak. I really enjoy it when I hear stories of her.

I heard of a case when a stressful time arrived in their camp, one person was particularly turned to. There was a

federal administrator who managed the settlement who arrived to assist them and wanted to apply the law. My great-grandmother just told them, “Don’t worry about this. We will look after this problem. There is no need to be concerned.” After she told the person that, she must have resolved the conflict because the person causing the consternation was no longer a concern. That is how capable our ancestors were, regardless if they were a woman or man.

Later on, her daughter, who was my grandmother named Qattuq, used to offer advice on many issues. Further, she would ask about my plans and when I told her my interests, she would be very proud of my efforts and this kept my strength up.

Her daughter’s name was Annie Okalik, who was my mother. She was the strongest woman I knew, and she raised me from childhood and her strength was my bedrock. She was the source of my knowledge, especially when undergoing hardships, as she was the foundation of our family strength.

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

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Okalik, please proceed.

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

To continue, all of my maternal aunts were constantly providing assistance and I loved them all dearly for their help,

including my paternal aunts. I am forever grateful to them.

My sister Ida, who was the eldest, was most like my mother, and unfortunately she passed away. My older brother told me this, “Our dear angel has gone home.”

Her younger sister Elisapee was full of genuine love and forgiveness, and she exemplified the model of love.

My other sisters as well, Jeannie and my youngest sister Looee, kept an eye on me and continuously asked about my status, especially when I was down at, sometimes daily. I appreciate them every day.

My sisters, to whom I am forever grateful, are fortunately amongst us. To all of my maternal and paternal nieces, I extend my undying love and will protect them at all times. To my children, especially my daughters and my grandchild, I thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member’s Statement 509 – 4(3):
Recognition of Volunteers and
Sports Programs in Sanikiluaq**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a number of volunteers who have recently organized sport programs for Sanikiluaq’s youth.

Mr. Speaker, Gina Pacheco is a Canadian soccer player from Sarnia,

Ontario, who was invited to Sanikiluaq to deliver soccer training to Sanikiluaq's young and aspiring soccer players.

Last month Ms. Pacheco spent three days in the community, much to the delight of the young people in Sanikiluaq.

Shortly afterwards Ms. Jessica Wong, a Canadian hockey player from Sidney, Nova Scotia, along with her trainer, Mandi Duhamal, spent three days in the community to deliver hockey skills training to our young residents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank both of these athletes for their services and for bringing joy to Sanikiluaq's avid sports players. We're always happy to spend time learning from skilled and professional athletes.

The real heroes in this event, however, are the organizers, Chris Kittosuk and Michael Small. Mr. Kittosuk is Sanikiluaq's community recreation coordinator and organizes soccer skills training. Mr. Small is a teacher in the community who volunteers his time organizing Sanikiluaq's hockey program and organized the recent hockey skills training.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize these two individuals for their time and effort. These types of sports programs help to make our communities more positive and fun places for our youth to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in showing appreciation for sports organizers and volunteers across our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 510 – 4(3):
Appreciation of International
Women's Day**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I also take this opportunity to stand and speak to instances when either people or groups are the focus of celebratory instances and when we express our pride in our fellow Inuit within our homelands.

Today, as per the announcement earlier, is International Women's Day. Obviously we need to step back, stop and reflect on the breadth of gratification we owe to women in our territory, as well as in our personal lives and our communities for their tremendous support.

Obviously I, too, have personal thanks to voice to my wife, Elisapee, my daughters in particular, as well as my granddaughters. They are the women in my life that I owe much gratitude to, as they have supported me throughout life's challenges.

I also want to mention that in the Department of Education, if I were to just take a look, there are 898 women employees, the vast majority of employees of the department, as the total number of workers in the department is 1,249 and 898 of them are women.

This is part of the reason why I wanted to voice my immense appreciation for

their hard work during this day of recognition globally of women, irrespective of whether they are Inuit women in our homelands or non-Inuit elsewhere in the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 511 – 4(3):
Appreciation of Women in
Nunavut**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize the women of Nunavut. They sew our clothes and look after our children.

I would like to recognize people from Gjoa Haven and also a special recognition to my wife, who keeps me straight and keeps me out of trouble, and also to my daughter, who has given me two great grandchildren. One is four years old and the other one is eight months.

I do miss them and I hope they're watching. I would like to say "hello" and "thank you" to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 512 – 4(3):
Celebrating International
Women's Day**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to celebrate this happy occasion as today is International Women's Day. Women are extremely capable, as most people know.

Particularly in my case, my mother served as both my father and my mother. I grew up fatherless and didn't know what it felt like having a father, as the day before I was born, my birth father passed away. My mother had to be both a father figure and mother to us, her children. She was the epitome of women's capabilities, as I learned every day that women are very strong and it continues to this day.

Further, as we all know from personal experience as members, we leave them behind for many weeks when we are sitting in session due to their commitment and acceptance of our roles. Even when we have left them behind for several weeks, they continue to parent over our children and grandchildren, patiently running the household. They feed and clothe the children and look after a myriad of duties while we are attending sessions here. They exhibit immense patience in this regard.

We have to take pride in all of our wives and children, in particular our daughters. As well, our partners and wives have accepted the unpredictability of our work and subsequent travels to meetings. Even when we have left them for many weeks, they exhibit enormous amounts of patience and this applies to our children, our daughters, and in particular our spouses.

I wanted to voice my immense gratitude to women in my life during this International Women's Day. I urge all

members to voice their thanks and celebrate their accomplishments today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 513 – 4(3):
Appreciation of Women on
International Women's Day**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues, visitors in the gallery, the viewing audience, and those who read the *Hansard*, as I know many people who read them daily. I send my regards to them.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to voice my immense appreciation along with my feelings of pride in all women throughout the world on International Women's Day, particularly to my mother. All of us have mothers or actually we all come from our mothers and they birthed us all. I am very grateful my mother gave me life.

Also, pertinent to me personally was when I started becoming an adult and married my wife, who is a strong supporter of me, as we walk together hand in hand meeting challenges. She has been my rock of support in my life. We also have daughters who are very loveable and they are my beautiful princesses, my daughters.

Also, within our nuclear family, the numbers of women surpass the men and they act like a magnet, keeping our family ties. I want to acknowledge all

women amongst our relatives and friends, as an example, my sisters, my paternal grandmother, my female cousins, my sisters-in-law, my paternal aunts, and my nieces on both sides.

One person who constantly springs to mind is the late Mary Pudlat. She expressed much love to me, coming from her heart and I have precious memories, so I wanted to acknowledge her place in my heart.

As well, on this day of celebration here in the House are our female pages, as they do various activities such as providing us with fresh water, so I extend my thanks to them on International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 514 – 4(3):
Appreciation of Women on
International Women's Day**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this International Women's Day, I also wish to voice my gratitude to women today.

To my colleagues, I wish to welcome you, including the visitors in the gallery and the listening audience.

I rise today to express my immeasurable gratitude to my late mother. I became aware of my mother's hard work back in those days when I was growing up, as she clothed us.

Our traditions were different back then. We had to collect ice, melt it into water, as well as rendering blubber into oil. Sometimes in the springtime our mother had to stay up overnight in order to complete her sewing to keep up with the requirements of our needs.

Those of us who had strong mothers take great pride in our mothers, as they were our cultural roots and teachers, and we stand here today due to their hard work. If they had abandoned us, none of us would be here today and the results are what make it so gratifying. I am extremely proud of my late mother, especially on this International Women's Day.

The other aspect to this is my wife. I, too, am very proud of my wife. I now have over 40 great-grandchildren today through our children and their children. What makes me so prideful is that I am well aware of my wife's capabilities and tremendous abilities as a mother, as she continues to provide advice and support to her adult children. This is especially gratifying. With her support and love to me, I am able to be here.

Furthermore, my wife makes winter clothing for my usage, including the traditional outerwear that I prefer to wear in this House. Based on her seamstress skills, she continues to be a tireless worker. Although her physical mobility is diminishing and she is finding it harder to walk, she has supported me tremendously.

As well, all women in this world are very skilful and capable. That is how we were kept clothed and we have reached this stage today successfully. This is a cause for expressing our gratitude to

women. I share with my colleagues in voicing my thanks to all women. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 515 – 4(3):
Appreciation of Women on
International Women's Day**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, women of Nunavut and my constituency in Pangnirtung. I join my colleagues in showing my pride on International Women's Day, especially my mother-in-law, Towkie Qarpik. She guides her children, my wife, and my sister-in-law. My in-law really welcomes me and they are really welcoming of me and my wife.

I tried to wear something that my wife made because of women's day. She makes me winter clothing and other clothing. My daughter Mona has been taught how to prepare caribou skins and sealskins and she can use cloth material. There are pictures of her husband and two sons wearing the clothing that she made. I wanted to point out that my wife was the first female Anglican minister. She takes care of our children very well no matter what they are going through.

As well I want to mention our daughter-in-law to be, Angelina Dialla and her daughters, Caroline, Alookie, and my other daughter-in-law to be, Debbie Dialla. This includes my sisters, of which there are six, and all of them are still amongst us. For your undying love

and continual support, I thank you very much.

To all of my sisters-in-law especially as well, as they continue to support me in various ways, I am always grateful for their assistance whenever I receive it.

I also appreciate my colleagues for voicing their gratitude to women in their lives, as that is usually the practice. I am also happy that you're mentioning International Women's Day. It's not just recognition; they form an integral part of our lives. I wish all women a very good day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 516 – 4(3):
Appreciation of Women on
International Women's Day**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To my fellow residents of Baker Lake, Kivalliq and Nunavut, please have a good day.

Mr. Speaker, prior to making my statement, earlier this morning when I woke up, I checked the weather website on my computer. To all my fellow Kivalliq residents, be aware of the adverse weather conditions outside today as blizzard conditions prevail. When I checked the weather forecast this morning, a region-wide blizzard is hammering the region.

It is obvious today during International Women's Day that women will be

celebrating many events as mothers and daughters. With that being the case, I remind my fellow Kivalliq residents of the weather conditions when a strong blizzard blows. Please take extra care both as individuals and families and stay home if needed. It will soon be springtime.

Since it is International Women's Day, I wish my mother to have an excellent day as she gave birth to me, as well as raising me to where I am today, including my wife and daughters. To all women throughout this world who are watching the televised proceedings, have a wonderful day today. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 517 – 4(3):
Appreciation of Women on
International Women's Day**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk, the residents of Taloyoak, and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and recognize women on International Women's Day.

I want to share a brief story with you. Back when we were children, there was a father and child who were out boating in the summer. The boat was fairly long, approximately 30 foot long. As the tide started ebbing, the father informed his

son, “Son, please push the boat out farther before it is stranded.”

The child approached the boat and he had a sealskin whip that had some extra length, so he lashed his kamiik above the knee to make it water tight. When he pushed the boat out, not a single drop entered. This shows the skills of our women who are capable of constructing kamiik and provides a concrete example of their skills.

I am voicing my pride in women for their immense skills and abilities. Further, to the women working at home, as well as in the school, although they are undergoing a hard time, they too will adapt. All women in the world are very adept, so I also share my pride in their abilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member’s Statement 518 – 4(3):
Appreciation of Women on
International Women’s Day**

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and residents of Kugluktuk.

(interpretation ends) I, too, want to stand and appreciate and honour the International Women’s Day with my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I do have a wife that I dearly miss. We had our 39-year anniversary a couple of months ago and

I did miss that. Mr. Speaker, I do have daughters too that provided me with 10 beautiful grandchildren.

Again, just like everybody else, when my mother woke me up in the early days, she used to try to teach me that the best principle for success in life during the changing times, when we’re going from traditional living to the modernized world, she used to tell me that the best principle to succeed in life is to get educated and work. I still believe that today. To succeed in life, you do have to do that. For families to succeed, they do have to do that.

For better parenting, it’s something that comes naturally for most mothers. During our crossover from the hunter-gatherer traditional lifestyle into the modernized world, there was a bit of a hiccup there, but as Inuit we know that we can overcome that.

Again, I want to recognize the women, the ladies of Nunavut and throughout the world. It’s something that we’ve got to pay close attention to. It should not only be once a year for treating ladies and our women with respect and honouring them. That should be every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

**Member’s Statement 519 – 4(3):
Appreciation of Women on
International Women’s Day**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleagues, I would

like to sincerely acknowledge International Women's Day and like the Premier just said, we should be celebrating this every day.

I would be remiss to not stand here and talk about some of the strong women that I have in my family. A number of people in Nunavut know of my grandmother, Jenny Tootoo, who raised a very large family, mostly boys I might add. The challenges that she had and the peacekeeping and the strength that that woman had is unbelievable for one.

As a husband and father to two beautiful, young ladies who are turning into women faster than I can deal with some days, I have to especially acknowledge the guidance and leadership that my wife provides, my own mother, who again provided a very strong grounding and helping me become who I am today and her sister, Helen.

When we talk about the women that we have in our lives and the leaders that we have in our communities, our territory, our country, and in our world, we can sit here and talk for hours and celebrate countless times the successes that women have in our society and how they help guide us and hold us accountable as leaders ourselves.

I especially want to just really acknowledge the future female leaders that this territory is spurning out and I would like to really celebrate the moving forward on women's issues and women's right and equality.

I think it's a very important day to take a step back and acknowledge the people around us, that we don't get caught up in our day-to-day lives and make sure that

we celebrate the women around us who help support the work that we do here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

**Member's Statement 520 – 4(3):
Appreciation of Women on
International Women's Day**

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to join my colleagues in acknowledging and expressing my pride in all women in Nunavut as today is their day.

In particular I wish to single out my wife. She was supposed to arrive and I was getting antsy waiting, as her travel was scheduled for today. However, due to a Kivalliq-wide blizzard, it will be impossible today and that was quite unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker, my wife has been my rock of support and we have been together for over 37 years. Further, she has absolutely been my main helper in all areas. She spends a lot of time alone when I travel to Iqaluit for meetings. She resides alone within our home, although our children occasionally visit. It is on the other side of town, although Naujaat isn't particularly big. Nonetheless our home is quite far for our children to visit regularly.

My wife is alone during this strong blizzard and she informed me that the wind is really blowing now. This showcases her abilities, as she readies all of my equipment outside properly prior

to a blizzard. That is how capable she is. I am always immensely proud as she is my rock of support in all areas, and we can relax and enjoy each other's company.

As today is International Women's Day, I wish all women a wonderful day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat and Whale Cove, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues, my fellow residents of Arviat, and the people of Whale Cove.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I would like to recognize four individuals who are visiting in the gallery today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, before I recognize these four individuals that are in the House today, I would like to briefly tell you some of the work they do for us here in Nunavut, such as contributing to document, preserve, and revitalize the Inuit Sign Language in Nunavut and develop glossaries, videos, and multimedia applications to promote the use in the communities. Also, more recently with the newly established

Nunavut Deaf Society, they are championing ways of delivering sign language interpretation services with deaf persons residing in some communities in our territory of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I would like to acknowledge this person first of all. (interpretation ends) Before I recognize him by his name, I would like to tell you what he does with his work in Nunavut. He's the president of the Canadian Deaf Research and Training Institute and Department of Psychology with the University of Montreal. (interpretation) The first person is Jamie McDougal. Please welcome him.

The second person is his daughter. (interpretation ends) She's the director of Canadian Deafness Research and Training Institute also in Montreal, Paige McDougal.

(interpretation) As well, I will mention the others by name starting with Sandy Kownak. (interpretation ends) She is the president of the Nunavut Deaf Society, a board member of the Canadian Deafness Research and Training Institute, the Nunavummi Makinnasuaqtiit Disabilities Society, and the newly created Abluqta Society in Baker Lake. Also with her is her son, Clayton Ungungai, who is the board member for the Nunavut Deaf Society in Baker Lake. (interpretation) Please welcome them. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Baker Lake is very far from here and it's very rare that I recognize anyone. I know they have relatives in Baker Lake. Although they were just recognized, he is well known and has many relatives in Baker Lake.

Epu Ungungai has helped other young people like himself understand through computers about proper terminology and the meanings of words. He does very important work like that even though he is handicapped. When he's working on documents, he really delves into Inuit culture and language and he goes to his relatives to ask for advice when he has a question.

I hope they have a great day during women's day. I know of the relatives, including his in-law. If they're watching in Baker Lake, I believe it's a blizzard day in the Kivalliq. I know of her many relatives in Baker Lake and I would like to welcome Sandy Kownak. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I acknowledge that these people have been recognized already, but I did want to take the time. I have met in the past with Jamie McDougal and Jenn Paige McDougal and was very excited to learn of some of the work that they're doing with hearing-impaired residents in Nunavut and the teaching that is going on at the Canadian

Deafness Research and Training Institute.

I also wanted to specifically acknowledge a constituent of mine, Sandy Kownak, along with Clayton Ungungai, who are working on the project in Nunavut with the Nunavut Deaf Society, of which two members were unable to attend.

I was informed that they will be using the telehealth technology to be able to accomplish their AGM here on Thursday and it will be simultaneously translated by sign language. I think that's an exciting step and a fantastic use of the technology we have for a great project going forward for hearing-impaired Nunavummiut.

I would like to sincerely thank you guys for the work that you guys are doing. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 668 – 4(3): Snow Fencing for Coral Harbour

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, snow fences are very important and I know that they work. For those of us who live in Naujaat, when a snow fence was put up, it really made a lot less snow land on the ground.

I would like to ask the minister about snow fences. Is there any program for communities in Nunavut where snow fences will be put up or are they only put up when a community requests for them or are they thought of only when a community asks for snow fences? I hope my question makes sense, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the member is talking about snow fences. CGS does not have a set policy on snow fencing. They are in some communities and they have been tried in several communities. Sometimes they work and sometimes they don't. It depends on the location of where they're put. If there is a request from a community, then we would go on a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He sort of responded to my next question. The minister probably knows that there are no snow fences in Coral Harbour. Can snow fences be installed this winter in Coral Harbour? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As for Coral Harbour, I'm not familiar with it. I believe they have not put in a request, but if they put in a request, then it would be looked at. We would have officials from CGS and officials from the hamlet talk together.

I'm not making any commitments. There are probably, for the lack of a better word, experts that would be better suited to know whether the possibilities of a snow fence would work because they are costly to put up, but in some places they are very effective. When they're effective, they are very good in terms of keeping the costs down of snow clearing in a community.

If Coral Harbour is interested, then they can put a request in and CGS officials will talk with them and we will see if it's viable or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before, it has been useful in the community of Naujaat. Can the minister's department check into Coral Harbour to see if there are any plans to put up snow fences and get back to me about it during this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will see if there have been any requests from the community of Coral Harbour for a snow fence and I will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 669 – 4(3): Surplus Equipment for Search and Rescue Organizations

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, on number of occasions over recent years I have asked the Minister of Community and Government Services if the government will implement a program and amend its policies to allow the donation of surplus equipment to community search and rescue organizations.

Mr. Speaker, such a program provides much-needed support to search and rescue organizations across the territory that continue to struggle to acquire much-needed equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I know ministers sometimes like to give us complicated answers, but today I'm going to keep my first question very simple. Can the minister tell us today if implementing this type of program is a priority of his department, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier to the member, my goal is to table the search and rescue policy this sitting. One of the goals is to be able to provide more help and support to the search and rescue organizations in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So much for asking for simple answers.

Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2015 testimony provided by the department's officials indicated that the department was considering the possibility of distributing surplus vehicles under your department's *Surplus Disposal Policy* to community search and rescue organizations.

Can the minister tell us specifically what steps and what timeline, if any, his department is taking to amend its current disposal policy to allow for the donation of surplus property to community search and rescue organizations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as this policy is tabled, it should be able to do what the member is requesting. We would have to make sure that equipment is in good standing order before it was turned over to the search and rescue organization. We

don't want to be turning over junk. We want to be turning over good, viable equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 670 – 4(3): School Security

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

As the minister is aware, the community of Taloyoak is very proud of the Netsilik School. As the minister will understand, my constituents in Taloyoak are very concerned that adequate measures are being taken to protect the school against the threat of arson.

Can the minister confirm whether or not his department has been in communication recently with school administrators concerning safety measures at the school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't fully understand the question. Mr. Speaker, I really didn't understand the question and if it's okay with you, I would like to ask him to repeat the question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Netsilik, please restate your question.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister of Education is: can the

minister confirm whether or not his department has been in communication recently with school administrators concerning safety measures at the school? I hope that made sense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the question correctly, I have it written down here and I'll make sure I say it right. Is he asking about bullying? I'm not quite sure what he is asking about. I didn't understand the question. I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I didn't understand the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Netsilik, I will ask you for the last time to rephrase your question so that the minister can understand it.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I have been trying to ask is Nunavut has lost some schools to arson in recent years. Are the schools in Nunavut currently being provided with 24-hour security? I hope that made sense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to my colleague for not having understood his question for too long, but I understand it now.

With respect to all of our schools in Nunavut, reading materials and oral

advice are provided to our students on safety guidelines related to schools. All of our schools have written materials specific to safety as well as situational awareness wherever any dangers abound. This includes respect for school property and the impacts of vandalism. Further, within all of our schools, we have resident elders who are recognized for their skills and who are able to go into our schools. They are the ones who offer this advice to our students.

With respect to safety issues in our schools, all schools are equipped with security cameras. We have this equipment in our schools, including the school in Taloyoak. As per my previous comment, the schools all have counsellors who advise our students and teachers as required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate if his department has been working with the Office of the Fire Marshal to review fire prevention measures at Nunavut's schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have ongoing discussions with the fire chiefs or with the RCMP, who give regular visits to the schools. We have not yet been approached by the fire marshal to date as we still have not received the report on what actions we need to take.

We don't just stand by and wait for things to happen in taking the necessary fire safety measures. It's something we're always discussing within the department. No, the fire marshal has not spoken to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 671 – 4(3): Alcohol Distribution Control

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

During our recent fall sitting, the minister tabled a document titled *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut*. This report stated that, and I quote, "Alcohol Education Committees (AECs) play an important role in supporting community well-being, but they need more support and resources."

Mr. Speaker, the opening of the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store will have an impact on neighbouring communities, including Kimmirut and Cape Dorset, which are very close to the community of Iqaluit.

Can the minister clarify what specific additional support and resources will be provided to alcohol education committees in the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The alcohol education committees do provide a valuable

service to our communities over the last few years and I'm sure it will continue. We hold an annual meeting in Iqaluit with the chairs and some of the other members of the alcohol education committees to go over the alcohol regulations and then some of the programs that can be used to support them. I anticipate this will continue.

In that particular document we did commit to providing them with more explanation about the roles and responsibilities; recognizing the contributions of the communities; information and support on how to make good decisions. Through our social responsibility program we are developing materials that will be available in the communities across Nunavut and to alcohol education committees that we would share with them to help them carry out their important work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the roles of alcohol education committees in restricted communities like Kimmirut and Cape Dorset is to review applications from individuals to import and possess alcohol. In some cases the committee may refuse the application because of concerns related to public safety or other issues.

Under the government's new regulations, individuals wishing to purchase alcohol from the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store will be required to apply for a customer account. Will the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store refuse to issue a customer account to individuals who

have been barred from possessing alcohol by their home community's alcohol education committee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the details of how they will process an application, but certainly if an individual is applying for a customer account, they will have to complete an application and they will have to present photographic ID.

I'm sure the officials who review the applications will likely ask certain questions. We don't actually have an application form yet that I'm aware of. If they were trying to take beer and wine back to a restricted community, they would have to respect the wishes of the local community or alcohol education committee.

If they're from Cape Dorset and they're in Iqaluit, there's nothing to prevent them from going into a local establishment or one of the licensed facilities for drinking. That's a good question. I appreciate it and I'm sure we will have officials consider that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The document that I referred to, *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut*, also stated that, and I quote, "Community Health and Wellness Committees ("CHWCs") play a lead role in meeting the wellness needs of the community"

and that they are “well positioned to support local harm reduction initiatives...”

Can the minister clarify what specific additional support and resources will be provided to community health and wellness committees in the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Local wellness and education committees play a vital role. Through the alcohol harm reduction plan, there are several departments working together. We consolidate and coordinate the resources. They will be identifying wellness committees in the communities and how they can work with them and share information with them on the various programs.

Again, there’s the social responsibility program that the Department of Finance will be rolling out. We will share information about responsible drinking. I’m sure the health department will share information with wellness committees about the programs they have; Family Services as well and other departments. This will be more of a coordinating role and the Department of Finance will take the lead in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu will not be here today due to illness.

Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Question 672 – 4(3): Alcohol Distribution Control

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my question, I would like to say “good day” to my wife, Mary. Have a good day.

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

In June of 2015 the new *Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store Regulations* were published in the *Nunavut Gazette*. The regulations require people to apply for a customer account. I think some of the questions were answered, but I would like to proceed with my questions.

My first question is: will any adult be allowed to have a customer account or will only residents of Iqaluit be permitted to purchase alcohol from the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe, under the regulations, it says any adult can apply. You have to fill out an application and you have to present photographic identification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anyone from any Nunavut community can purchase alcohol from the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store. Some communities have a prohibition and some communities are restricted. If anyone can apply for a customer

account, how are you going to deal with issues like that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify, any adult, that's first. It's beer and wine only; it's not any other hard stuff. Again, I don't have the details on how the application process would work. First, any adult from any community in Nunavut, it's likely they are going to be on some type of list and we would probably check. If I have been charged through court and I can't drink alcohol, I would be on some sort of list. I am sure that information would be obtained by our people.

Again, without the details of the application, it may be on the application form itself. There may be a requirement for the individual to self-identify if they have been charged or convicted of any offence that prohibits them from purchasing alcohol or beer and wine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I am asking this question is because there are quite a few Nunavut communities that have restricted access to wine or beer or spirits. They cannot just bring alcohol to their communities because of the restrictions in the prohibited communities.

The reason why I am asking this question, and I'll take Pond Inlet as an example, the alcohol education

committee approves or disapproves an application. When we go to Iqaluit we can buy wine or beer and somebody would be able to bring alcohol up to Pond Inlet without going through the application process. How are you going to fix this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, if a person is approved for a customer account, that customer account will only allow them to purchase one case of beer per day of 12 cans up to 500 millilitres and two bottles of wine. That's all they could purchase.

Secondly, if the individual or whoever is purchasing it is from a restricted or prohibited community, it's up to them to respect the local community's wishes. They've got to know those rules. If they're from a prohibited community and they're bringing alcohol in, then they're out breaking the law. If they're not respecting the local permitting process, again they're breaking the rules as approved by their local alcohol education committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 673 – 4(3): Environmental Assessment by Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

Last week I tabled a copy of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's recent announcement concerning the upcoming strategic environmental assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait.

The stated purpose of this assessment is to "identify the types of oil and gas development activities that could be proposed for Baffin Bay and Davis Strait...and examine issues associated with possible development types."

Can the minister confirm what role her department will be playing in the strategic environmental assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. On December 20 a joint statement with the US and the Government of Canada announced a moratorium on oil and gas licensing in the Canadian arctic waters. ED&T still supports the use of strategic environmental assessments as a tool to be implemented at an early stage in the oil and gas development process. The department looks forward to working with the Nunavut Impact Review Board during the review process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Impact Review Board's announcement indicated

that public engagement sessions will be held in a number of communities, including Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. It also indicated that "a final public meeting and community roundtable will be facilitated by the NIRB in Iqaluit."

For the record, can the minister confirm which organization is responsible for providing support to communities during the consultation process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I can't comment on how the Nunavut Impact Review Board will do its business. We are usually an intervener in the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record, can the minister confirm what the Government of Nunavut's position is regarding oil and gas development in Nunavut waters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I can look into what has been done and I can inform my colleague personally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 674 – 4(3): Lawyer Training Program

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Arctic College.

I would first like to ask what the status of the lawyer training program is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. To date the applicants to the (interpretation ends) law program (interpretation) are presently submitting (interpretation ends) written tests (interpretation) or written essays specific to the written questions. This requirement for that aspect is now completed. This is part of the criteria to determine which applicants will be admitted to the program. The written part of their application has been completed.

I am also very happy to inform my colleagues, if they aren't aware, that a director specific to the north or the (interpretation ends) northern director (interpretation) has just been selected. We are very happy that this northern director, who originates from the north, Mr. Steven Mansell, will commence his employment by May 8. That's where we stand right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for moving things along. Now, he just referenced the application written component has been completed by the applicants to the program.

When do you anticipate notifying the successful applicants of their admission to the law program, including the starting dates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We expect that this notification process will commence after this written component, as it is still ongoing, although we are down to the last group. Perhaps it may be this summer where the successful applicants will be notified and identified.

Keep in mind, as per my previous remarks, that we received 82 applications and we only have 25 spots for these applicants. Once it is clear, out of that group that number will be selected. However, we anticipate that this summer. The start date is in the fall and September 2017 is when the first scheduled classes will commence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 675 – 4(3): Delays in Obtaining Driver’s Licences

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I was informed by Naujaat’s SAO that they’re quite concerned that when you want to renew your driver’s licence or do your first test, it takes an extremely long time to get the licence back.

One person, perhaps a long-term hamlet employee whose licence was going to expire, has had to wait for over a year. There are also people who have been waiting for more than six months.

I will ask the minister: if someone is from the Kivalliq, where are the driver’s licences processed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. My department is always working diligently on dealing with driver’s licences and photo IDs. The local GLOs are the ones who deal with driver’s licences for all communities and they deal with the applications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am well aware of the position that administers the applications, as people approach the GLO. My question relates to the process after the application. When the GLO submits the application, for example, if they are from the Kivalliq, where do they send the application for the renewal of their driver’s licences? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. The government liaison officers in the communities work in partnership with the motor vehicle services division that administer this program. They operate out of Gjoa Haven, here in Iqaluit, and in your case it would be sent to the Rankin Inlet office. There are also offices in Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk where these applications are processed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now we have daily flights, with some days having two flights between Naujaat and Rankin Inlet, and I believe that is the case for the entire region. With that number of flights to Rankin Inlet, as I seemed to understand that the Rankin Inlet office receives these applications if you are from the Kivalliq region, are the motor

vehicles employees working at that office sufficient to handle the number of applications? Is this due to a capacity issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. To my information, they have sufficient staff. The difficulties arise when the paperwork is not done properly and then returned to the community. They have to ask for more information on some applications. All the information is required for the application to move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 676 – 4(3): Annual Bulk Fuel Resupply

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

The Petroleum Products Division of the department is responsible for Nunavut's annual bulk fuel resupply. In recent years the government has attempted to save money by pre-purchasing fuel early in the year before the summer resupply season.

My first question is: can the minister confirm today how much of this year's bulk fuel supply has been pre-purchased? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date we have purchased 100 percent of our gasoline supply for 2017-18 and 100 percent of our jet-A fuel for the same year. We have not purchased any diesel P50 yet. We're still waiting and analyzing the market. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the government's current supply and transportation contract with Woodward's Oil Limited for delivery to Eastern Arctic communities expires after this year's resupply season. Will the government be issuing a new request for proposals for bulk fuel resupply or will it be exercising its option to simply extend the current contract for an additional one or two years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information in front of me. I don't know exactly what the contract says, but usually at the end of any contract, if there are provisions for extensions, they may or may not be exercised. If they're not, then an RFP would go out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Question 677 – 4(3): Problems in Obtaining Driver’s Licences

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

I would like to get clarification in regard to problems with obtaining driver’s licences. In my community at least, I know that there’s a very dire problem and sometimes they have to wait up to a year to obtain a new driver’s licence. Without telling the applicant that their application is not written well enough or is missing information, sometimes they have to wait a year for their driver’s licence. What is the cause of this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I didn’t quite understand part of the member’s question, the reason why they have to wait a year for their driver’s licence. Perhaps you can work with the individual who has been waiting too long and send him or her to our office. There could be a number of reasons for the delay.

We do work in conjunction with the GLOs and if there is a capacity or training issue, we try to provide training, as well as processing applications. I would want to meet with the member to ensure I completely understand the case and how we can move forward.

Another factor is the changes to the driver’s licence applications, as by fiscal year 2018 the Motor Vehicle Information System will be made available to all communities. The preparations are underway to have a smoother process related to the driver’s licence process when everything is up and running. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister knows, we have been talking about this problem or issue for many years and I know that this is not the first time we mentioned it. I believe it has been four years that I have been participating in trying to resolve this issue and it has not been resolved.

In the communities we don’t know exactly what is wrong. Perhaps your department knows. That’s why I’m asking the question. What is the cause of this problem and why do people have to wait a long time? Many of us are not informed that the application is not written well or is missing information, and this is without letting the applicant know. Sometimes the applicant will have to wait a year because they have no idea what the problem is.

I would like to ask the minister: what is causing the problem of having to wait a year for our driver’s licences? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. If their driver's licence expired, they can extend it for another year by going to the office where they can extend the driver's licence again.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that nobody has come to my office to complain about their driver's licence not coming in. There has been only one case of someone who came to my office to say that they can't wait any longer for their driver's licence. At the time we worked with the individual and they obtained their driver's licence right away.

When we don't know the cause or the reason why the individuals are waiting long, I can say that we're willing to work closely with people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm stating the facts. In my community and I believe all of us, and I can see nodding of the heads, we are told that the process is not satisfactory because they wait a very long time. We have no idea what the problem is. Your department should know why there is a problem with the process because we don't know. We just wait for our driver's licences.

In Pond Inlet we believed that the process took so long because they were waiting to get many applications before they sent them out. The reason why I'm asking this is because a couple of months ago in Pond Inlet many received their driver's licences at the same time. We started thinking that perhaps they wait to send the applications in bulk.

What is the process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I also thank the member. There are many interrelated factors that can result in delays. In addition to completing the application forms, we need to send out these applications. As we all know, the postal service isn't very speedy, but it is required to send and return the licences.

I can concur with you on this matter, as I went to the (interpretation ends) Canada Bank Note (interpretation) Company down in Ottawa, where they also produce the newest form of driver's licences. The office is quite complex and the production of driver's licences involves several steps. They can't just produce a single licence as it is designed for bulk production. They have procedures that disallow the production of a single licence and they can only produce them in bulk. That can be the factor resulting in these delays. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 678 – 4(3): School Security

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

I am very sorry to say that the school in Kugaaruk burned down and was totally

destroyed. It's not the first school that was totally destroyed and having to see these kinds of incidents is not good because the schools are very beneficial to the communities. Now that they are being burned down, I think it's time to look at measures or something to protect the schools.

I have visited many communities outside of Nunavut and I saw that they have fences at some schools. Perhaps the schools should have fences around them. That way we could protect them better from arson and vandals. Can the minister commit to looking into these kinds of measures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we have reviewed various ways of how we can protect our schools. In regard to the member's question we had reviewed this issue on how we can protect our schools because we value them. We have looked at that aspect. When we are constructing schools or when we're making additions to our schools, those are the issues that we consider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education has a limit. When will the Department of Education finish reviewing and when are they going to start implementing the protection plan so that there won't be another school burning down? Schools are very valuable to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell my colleague that nowadays some of our schools have fences under them because they are built above the ground. As I stated, we wanted to build a fence all around the schools and we're looking at options on how to keep the schools safe. Perhaps building a regular fence around the schools is another option that we had wanted to try. In some communities they are starting a neighbourhood watch. We have discussed this matter with the neighbourhood watch, the municipalities, and municipal by-laws if they could do more supervision.

We looked at various options and we have been working on them, but we have already started building fences beneath the schools and foundations. If we're going to be constructing new schools, we carefully look at the foundations of the schools. For example, in Cape Dorset the school is closer to the ground so that people can't crawl underneath it. These are some of the things that we're doing to keep our schools safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If he completed his response, I wasn't going to add another question, but now I'll ask it. This is not the first time a school has been burned down. Perhaps your department has looked at and started to learn why the children commit arson so that we can stop it from happening to the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we have already started working on parental engagement. We definitely need to involve the parents and we have to discipline and provide advice to our children. We also base our work on parental engagement. That's all I can say. We need to involve the parents more so that they can start talking to their children.

We have already started parental engagement with DEAs to involve the parents. Perhaps they can hold meetings to discuss this matter because the whole community is involved, not just the Department of Education. The whole community has to be involved, especially the parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, the time for question period has expired. Moving on to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) 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. 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 022 – 4(3): Bill 28, An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Codes and Standards*, 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 28 will appear on the order paper on Friday, March 10.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 276 – 4(3): Report on the Community Transportation Initiatives Program 2016-2017

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the Community Transportation Initiatives Program 2016-17. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 277 – 4(3): Department of Environment's Nunavut Fisheries Strategy, 2016-2020

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to table the

Department of Environment's *Nunavut Fisheries Strategy 2016-2020*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 14. Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom. Sammurtok.

Item 16: Motions

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, received second reading on November 8, 2016;

AND WHEREAS Bill 29 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration;

AND WHEREAS Rule 68(1) provides that bills referred to a standing committee shall not be proceeded with until the Assembly receives the report of the committee or 120 calendar days pass from the day the bill was given second reading;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee has been giving careful consideration to this important piece of proposed legislation;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee requires additional time to complete its work;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 29 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Item 17. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Education, Hon. Paul Quassa.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 37 – An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act – First Reading

Hon. Paul Quassa: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North, that Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 40 – Corrections Act – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 40, *Corrections Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 19, 26, 32, 33, 34, and 35 with Mr. Enook 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.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:30 and Committee resumed at 15:56*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, colleagues. I would like to call the committee meeting to order.

First of all, everyone listening or watching the televised proceedings in Nunavut, welcome to your committee.

In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 19, 26, 32, 33, 34, and 35. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, members. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 34 and continue with the review of the main estimates of the Department of Finance, followed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and, if time permits, we will proceed to the review of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 34?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, Minister Peterson, would you like to have officials join you at the witness table? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have two witnesses I would like to join me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to let Minister Peterson's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Alma Power, Associate Deputy Minister of Finance in charge of human resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Chown and Ms. Power, welcome to the House.

Before we get to our meeting, on behalf of my colleagues here, we have heard that Mr. Chown is celebrating his wedding anniversary, so we congratulate him.

>> *Applause*

Let's now get down to business. We are on page C-4. Finance. We had the opportunity yesterday to comment on the opening comments. My apologies. No, we did not have an opportunity. The opening comments were made by Minister Peterson and the committee.

If there are any general comments, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Please note that the contents of the minister's opening comments are covered under the different branches of the department and you can ask your detailed questions under the appropriate pages.

I don't think anyone has general comments. We will go to page C-4. It reads, Finance. Corporate Management. The first person wishing to speak is Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Knowing that Mr. Chown is a good Habs fan, I noticed that the Habs waited 'til past midnight to win their game last night, so they must have heard about Mr. Chown's wedding anniversary and wanted them to celebrate properly. They cost me a bit of sleep, but I'm glad that they won for you last night.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, we have to start reviewing what the corporate management is planning to do. It states here that the liquor commission is included there. I have questions on that for the minister.

(interpretation ends) In September of 2013 the minister made a commitment to the Assembly that yes, we would consult with neighbouring communities prior to opening a beer and wine store. I would like to ask the minister if the neighbouring communities around Iqaluit have been consulted on the beer and wine store. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, that was a long time ago, but I believe those minutes or that one page was tabled out of context. It was a large discussion at the time based on a letter from the mayor of Hall Beach, which was only sent to the standing committee, not to myself.

I recall something to the effect that Hall Beach had wanted a plebiscite with the neighbouring community of Igloolik to be consulted. We said, “More than likely” or something like that, if they would be consulted, but the thing is we didn’t say they would be consulted before the plebiscite because there’s no point in having consultations if the local community has made their determination that they want to proceed.

Again, as I have said many times over the years, there was a task force going around every community for close to two and half years and made their recommendations. There were extensive consultations here in Iqaluit and a plebiscite. I don’t want to revisit all that, but the people of Iqaluit decided that they want us to open up a beer and wine store pilot project, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik, do you have another question? Go ahead.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are starting to hear concerns from the outside communities and how they are going to be affected by the sale of beer and wine in our community. What kind of a response are we going to provide for those communities? What are we going to do so that they are not affected by the sale of beer and wine here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, we just discussed the *Beer and Wine Store Regulations* today in question

period, but they were passed in 2015, shortly after the outcome of the plebiscite, which 78 percent of the voters who showed up voted in favour. The regulations would require any adult to make an application and then supply photo identification in their application. We’re still working on the application forms and thank you to the MLAs today for asking those questions because that helps us.

If they’re approved, they would be allowed to purchase one case of beer a day and two bottles of wine maximum. Now, if an individual is from another community or a restricted community and they’re here, we can’t stop them from drinking. They can just go to a bar. They can go to a lounge. They can go to special occasions. We can’t stop them unless they’re on a court order where they can’t drink. It’s their responsibility to make sure they don’t breach their probation.

The alcohol education committees in their respective communities, if the community is prohibited, then the individual coming from a community must respect the local decision to be prohibited. You can’t bring in alcohol and if you wanted to bring in alcohol to a restricted community, of course you would have to bring it in according to the permit that you would have to get approved by the alcohol education committee.

If you’re here, you would have to get a permit. If you were in one of the communities, you would have to go to that alcohol education committee and get that permit. One way or the other, you have to respect the local decision on how

much alcohol you can bring into the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I grew up in a prohibited community, but we had more alcohol than free communities like Iqaluit. How are you going to respond to the concerns of the prohibited and restricted communities about the opening of a beer and wine store? How are those concerns going to be addressed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been well documented over the years what the intention of the beer and wine store is and that's to make available affordable beer with 5 percent alcohol content and wine with 13 to 17 percent alcohol content. The intention is to disrupt the bootleggers that exist, their business, and hopefully reduce the binge drinking.

Part and parcel with all of this, the Department of Finance has a social responsibility program which we're almost ready to roll out, which will provide materials to all communities about social responsibility, drinking socially and drinking responsibly. There is information that shows that 12 ounces of beer is equal to 5 ounces of a glass of wine or 1.5 ounces of hard alcohol. You're going to have to drink an awful lot of beer to get the same effect as a small amount of hard liquor. It's 40 percent.

We have seen the evidence from Greenland over the years that when they introduced beer and wine stores, the drinking decreased and it became safer in their communities. There is evidence from Northern Quebec that it's trending in the same direction. Again, this is a three-year pilot project to be monitored by the government to see if there's any impact on the local community, like any negative impacts, and then at the conclusion after three years it will be evaluated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, I grew up in a prohibited community and there was alcohol available. We used to try to finish it as fast as possible, whether it was hard liquor or not. There's a sudden effect when you're drinking too fast, whether it's beer or hard liquor. It's kind of hard to believe that low alcohol content will have less of an impact. I have blacked out on beer and wine. Even though that's the case, they're still alcohol.

The outlying communities are concerned about this issue. How are you going to respond to the communities' concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very interesting Mr. Okalik asked a question like that, if they were in a prohibited community. I have appeared at mayors' meetings over the years and mayors of communities where prohibition is in place and they say they

have a lot of serious drinking. Some communities over the years have asked for additional police officers in a community that's "dry."

You know there's a demand. Where there's demand, bootleggers will spring up to supply that demand by selling bottles of booze. A 60-ouncer for some communities, I have heard, is \$500 a bottle, a mickey is \$300 to \$350. The beer and wine store is not hard alcohol; it is beer and wine.

Imagine, Mr. Chairman, if you try to hide a case of beer, which is 12 or a flat of beer which is 24 cans, in your suitcase, you could, but to what point? The amount of alcohol in 24 cans of beer is probably half or less than a 60 oz. bottle of hard liquor. Why would a bootlegger take that risk? Wine is the same. Small bottles of wine aren't nearly as impactful as a mickey of hard stuff.

We will educate people and we will put that information out. We're talking about a social responsibility program. We will put materials out. People probably already know about the danger of alcohol. The alcohol education committees do have materials. They do work with the communities. We have committed to providing additional materials, resource materials and training to support the good work that those committees do in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't get a response to my question. What are you going to be doing about the concerns of the

communities? It's going to have an effect on their lives. How are you going to deal with the concerns of the communities?

The beer and wine store is going to be open this year. You're downplaying that it's just beer and wine, but I don't agree with that at all because I have blacked out a lot of times by drinking beer and wine too fast. We have to get the response as soon as possible.

When you are in a prohibited community, you try to finish the alcohol as soon as possible because it's going to be taken away if they find that you have these products. Can you respond to me as to how you're going to deal with this so that the alcohol doesn't go to the outlying communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, shortly after the plebiscite here in Iqaluit, as I said, 78 percent of the people who had voted that day voted in favour of opening a beer and wine store. The cabinet approved the *Beer and Wine Store Regulations* in which it said that any adult can apply for a customer account and supply appropriate ID.

We're still working on the criteria, but that would limit any customer to purchasing and you would have to have a customer account to purchase one case of beer per day and two bottles of wine. It's not going to be purchasing hard alcohol. You can't go there and purchase Smirnoff or any other hard alcohol. It's

only beer and wine and it's low alcohol content and affordable.

Again, as I said, Mr. Okalik is concerned and he says there are bootleggers in the dry communities. That's exactly what the beer and wine store is intended to do, to disrupt the bootleggers and to decrease the binge drinking. Now, we're only opening a beer and wine store in Iqaluit. We're not opening it in a dry community or any other community in Nunavut. If it's prohibited in a local community and they know who the bootleggers are, they should be reporting the bootleggers. Go to the police. Make those calls. Don't support the bootleggers. I don't know what Mr. Okalik wants me to do.

I met one time when I was the Minister of Justice, I went to a meeting and they wanted me to have the police inspect suitcases at the airport for people going into dry communities, residents of those communities going into their own communities, stopping them and inspecting their suitcases for hard stuff. I said, "If you know who they are, why don't you report them to the police? They are breaking the law." That's what has to happen. People have to stand up to bootleggers.

Bootleggers are supplying hard stuff. Most bootleggers are probably not selling beer because there's no value in beer, but you can easily get a case of Smirnoff and you could probably get that in through suitcases or two or three bottles. You're not going to bring in a case or a flat of beer to a community. I would be very surprised if a bootlegger... . Bootleggers are kind of like businesspeople too. They can calculate the mark-ups. They're not bring in a case

of beer or a flat of beer into a prohibited community to sell when they can bring in six bottles of 60 ounces to sell for \$300 to \$500 a bottle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposed store will be open for a certain number of hours a day. Once people run out of what they purchased, they will turn somewhere else. How will they be stopped if they look somewhere else? This will just add onto what they bought already.

I can imagine, once the store opens and I purchase my limit, I go to the bar when it opens, and then once I'm done there, I start drinking what I purchased. That's a large amount of alcohol. That's what you do when you're an alcoholic. Once it runs out, you start looking somewhere else, if you can find it.

It seems to be just playing with words because bootlegging won't be stopped. I don't believe that will happen, having gone through it. This is just a general comment. My concerns are not being addressed, so I'll stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Even though that was just a comment, Minister Peterson, I'll give you an opportunity to talk about that if you wish. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I pointed out the other day in my Reply to Budget Address that there are several lawful ways for individuals to get their alcohol in Iqaluit. Of course

you can get your import permits and ship it in through orders through the south. You can bring them on sealift. There are multiple outlets in the community, restaurants and bars. There are a couple other places. You can get special occasion licences for weddings and things like that. You could make homemade beer. You can get a permit to make wine. There's a brewery opening in the community some time in the near future. People understand this. There are already outlets where you can get alcohol.

I'll keep stressing this that the beer and wine store is solely intended to offer low alcohol content, affordable beer and wine. We're primarily targeting to disrupt the bootleggers, the very bootleggers that Mr. Okalik has mentioned a couple of times that he's concerned about. If people are really desperate for alcohol, they will find the bootleggers. There's nothing we can do to stop them from doing that, but they're going to paying a lot of money, like I said, upwards of \$500 a bottle and we know that's happening in many communities.

One of the other things we're working on as the government, putting on my other portfolio, the justice department is working on the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* where we can look at going after the proceeds of crime. That would be bootlegging. We know some bootleggers are making \$10,000 on a weekend. I was at a police scrum six or seven years ago where there was \$200,000 worth of Smirnoff piled up just from one bust in this town; tens of thousands of dollars of cash lying out there. It was quite astounding. It was mostly Smirnoff. Under that Act, we can

target people that could be bootleggers or drug dealers for that matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before I go on to another name, Minister Peterson, I asked you along the same lines, so I'll ask for a clarification on part of Mr. Okalik's question, (interpretation ends) if I may. (interpretation) Any adult can get a customer account. Minister Peterson, once I enter your beer and wine store, I would show my photo ID. As a resident of Pond Inlet, is that it and then I can make my purchase for that day? I thank myself. Minister Peterson.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The regulations say any adult. You have to fill in an application and supply ID, but it says may apply. It doesn't necessarily mean you're going to be approved, but we're still working out the criteria. Like I said in question period, we would still go through that process to determine who will be ineligible to be approved and then look at the background of that individual. It's still early and it's good to have this discussion because it helps us with our decision-making processes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for clarifying that. This is something to consider. It doesn't necessarily mean you will be approved; you may be approved, as you stated. It could happen or might not happen. I understand right away that if a person is from a prohibited community, they will not be able to get permits even if they're adults. Will the residents of prohibited communities

never be issued permits? Do I understand that correctly? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I didn't say that. If an individual from a dry community was, let's say, to go to Ottawa or go to Winnipeg or Yellowknife, that doesn't stop them from going into a bar and having a drink. It's the same if they were to come to Iqaluit. Let's say I come from Cambridge Bay and I apply and I meet the criteria, why wouldn't I be approved for a customer account? You must have a customer account before you can actually purchase any beer or wine and that allows us to keep the data and track the amount of beer and wine that an individual purchases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. My understanding is that if I come from a prohibited community, according to government legislation and the wishes of the community, do I understand that if I go to your beer and wine store, I would be able to get a customer account while I'm here in Iqaluit? Is that my understanding? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'm not understanding. If you're coming from a prohibited community and you go to the beer and wine store to purchase a case of beer and your two bottles of wine, even if you're intending to go back to Pond Inlet and it's a prohibited community, then you're in violation of the local restrictions. If you're going to consume the beer or wine here, then you wouldn't be in violation of the local community rules. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I'll go on to somebody else. You should also consider this. Being from Pond Inlet, if I'm going to bring any kind of alcohol, I have to be approved. Well, that's the law. However, you're saying that while I'm in Iqaluit, I'll be able to purchase because you have no idea if I'm going to bring it home to Pond Inlet or if I'm going to consume it here. You should think about that. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his officials. Mr. Chown, I celebrate the day with you. Have a good day.

I have a question on what's being discussed on the beer and wine store. Some communities are prohibited from possession of alcohol or if someone has broken the law before and was convicted for alcohol-related offences, they are interdicted or prohibited from ordering, let's say, for six months or one year. The alcohol education committee decides that.

However, if the person leaves the community and goes to the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store to purchase, my question is on that. The Department of Finance will be coming up with the process. The person has rights in Canada. If you're going to check into their background and there are privacy concerns, what are your plans on that? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

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

the question. I'm glad he mentioned the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. If you're living in a restricted community or a prohibited community, even if I'm a visitor, it's up to me to know the local laws and obey the local laws. You don't drink in that community. If an individual comes from that community, like many do, they come to Iqaluit, they go to Yellowknife, and they go to all kinds of places where there are bars or restaurants and they have that right to buy a beer or have a glass of wine. They can even go to a friend's house.

Just because they're from a prohibited community doesn't mean they can't have a drink in another community that's not prohibited. I'm not understanding that. We will be considering all these kinds of comments. The application process hasn't been completed. We will be consulting with the alcohol education committees and others. The Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board, for example, would be involved in helping us develop our application process. The RCMP may be involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll rephrase my question here. An individual who has committed crime while under the influence of alcohol, let's say, in a restricted community or a prohibited community or no, better yet, in a restricted community, he is on an interdict list for a period of six months to a year maybe. That individual travels outside of that community and knows now that there is a beer and wine store in Iqaluit, and decides to go buy a case of beer or something.

In order for the beer and wine store to check if this individual is on an interdict list, I believe that would now fall into the part of information and privacy legislation. Is that going to be taken into consideration to get legal consent of obtaining private, confidential information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question, a very good question. I'm glad you raised that. Of course we're well aware of the *Access to Information and the Protection of Privacy Act*. We would very likely go talk to the privacy commissioner's office, "This is what we're planning to do." We do that all the time as a government. We consult with that office. We also have our Department of Justice that can provide legal advice on those types of issues. That's the kind of stuff we would do as a matter of course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In looking at your business plan on page 24, priorities 2017-2020, third bullet, your business plan indicates that one of the priorities for the department's Corporate Management Branch during the 2017-18 fiscal year is to review and revise the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Policy in collaboration with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The NHC's business plan indicates that it will issue a request for proposals to "conduct an external review of the current GN Staff Housing Policy."

From the perspective of the Department of Finance, what are the most immediate changes that need to be made to the current Staff Housing Policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, one of our priorities would be to encourage people to private homeownership and move into their own homes. It would obviously free up staff housing if they were to move into their own housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the government considering eliminating staff housing subsidies for high-income employees in the senior management and executive categories? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is not something we are actively considering at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How is the government planning to address the issue of long-standing vacant units as part of its review of the Staff Housing Policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is the lead on this and we are involved to the extent that we give them advice and support. There are staff allocation committees. Job competitions come to us and for job eval. and competitions, we have to make sure that competitions don't go out until there's housing assigned to it. The housing corporation itself is overall responsible for staff housing, public housing, and social housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at staff housing for GN staff that's part of a benefit package, does that still apply to all GN staff, whether in senior management, middle management, or frontline? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a limited amount of housing in GN staff housing in Nunavut. The last I checked several months ago, there was a shortage of 900 staff houses across Nunavut. We use the housing to attract people to apply on jobs.

In many communities there's no local housing market. Practically for all intents and purposes, there's zero housing. If you didn't have staff housing, it's very unlikely you would be able to hire teachers, social workers,

nurses, and doctors. You have to provide staff housing. We prioritize housing based on the importance of a job to a community and to a department. There are a lot of vacant jobs in Nunavut and the Government of Nunavut because there's no housing to attract those individuals to apply for that job. Therefore we typically have to rely on casuals for extended periods of time to staff those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look this collaboration between the Department of Finance and the Nunavut Housing Corporation regarding the Staff Housing Policy, how long do you anticipate the review to take or will it be complete soon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The terms of reference, I believe, are under development now and it's probably going to take the better part of a year before this is all complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the minister is right on par here. He led right into my next question. Do we anticipate the revisions to be complete in the life of this government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't looking at Mr. Mikkungwak's questions earlier, but the answer to that is it won't be completed in the life of this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to know some of my questions can carry on a little bit here.

When we look at the revisions, how long do you anticipate the revisions for the GN Staff Housing Policy to take place? A year or a year and half? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a crystal ball here that I can gaze into and see how things will unfold in the future, but the work will get underway and when it's complete, the new government and the new ministers will have to decide how to proceed with the results of the work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Just to remind the members, at this time we're on Finance. Corporate Management. Page C-4. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow me to ask about liquor, I have a few more questions to ask.

Minister Peterson, welcome along with your officials.

This subject is one that I wish to comment on. I am hurt by this initiative, although I am aware of the benefits. However, Nunavummiut are being tempted by liquor, kind of like being baited. This also involves irresponsible drinking that directly impacts our children, which will increase and that is unfortunate. This is personally unacceptable to me and my reasoning is, although I understand that the objective is to lessen the availability of hard liquor, it is the root cause of committing crimes under the influence of alcohol.

I have never drank or smoked in my life and I don't use any of those substances. When you don't use it, it's okay too. It's very good. For that reason I have a concern about this. Many people who never drank in their lives in Nunavut are not happy to see more alcohol in the community. That's what I feel.

If there are real problems being created by the beer and wine store after the three years, will you be reconsidering this? If you would like to respond to my comment or question, I would be willing to wait for your response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. I understand what Mr. Shooyook is saying. I have to keep clarifying that this is beer and wine. This is not hard alcohol. This is not something where you open up a 60 ounce bottle and binge drink and six or

seven drinks, and then black out or violence ensues.

If I could go back in history in myself a little bit in Cambridge Bay, I have been around there a long time and grew up there. One time we had what we call a beer line where the government provided beer in a warehouse. We had to get cards and we could go down every Friday and get our one case of beer. There was still hard alcohol in town. You could get it from the curling rink at the time, the DEW line sites, and you could import it. When the beer line closed in 1988 and people started ordering hard stuff from outside of Cambridge Bay or when the bootleggers started supplying the hard stuff, then we really started having problems.

Beer and wine is low content alcohol. It's affordable. That's what we're planning to do. We're hoping to, as I said, roll out our social responsibility program and educate people about the dangers of binge drinking, drinking while you're pregnant, the violence that occurs if you binge drink, so that if people travel around the country or around Nunavut and they're in situations or in places where they can drink, they will drink responsibly.

As I said, this is a three-year pilot project and we're going to track through the customer accounts and other information and data we will gather. We will track the impact of the beer and wine store in the community here.

As I said, based on research that the Nunavut Liquor Task Force did in their 27 months, they looked at Greenland and they saw the Greenland experience was very positive where they opened up beer

and wine stores and people learned to drink responsibly and crime didn't increase. In Northern Quebec a couple of years ago, we got that researched. They opened up beer and wine stores and there was no notable increase in crime and violence.

At the end of three years we will evaluate it and who knows who is going to be here in three years, but officials in the new government at the time will have to sit down and say, "Okay, this was a pilot project," look at the pros, look at the cons, "Do we keep it open? Do we close it?" Those sort of questions. To answer Mr. Shooyook's question, yes, three years after it opens, it would be evaluated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even so, that's what I say. While that is the case, I think about the possible things we can see in the future. After it has been opened, the communities that didn't have access to that before will be requesting and ordering it. Years later the wine and beer stores will be spread around the communities. It won't fix anything. Even though beer and wine are not as strong as hard liquor, people can drink to a stupor by themselves if they drink enough of it. I am very concerned if we're not going to be making any legislation about this. I know it may help in some way, but if it will be proper in other ways is another thing.

I will express my feelings on the matter. My personal feeling on the matter is that, whether it is hard liquor or weaker alcohol, once your life includes

consumption of these substances, it impacts you. I have never heard of any person who started consuming alcohol said to have turned their life around. No one has ever improved their lives in this manner. Even at the lower levels of alcohol and with daily limits, one can still drink and get drunk. This will not benefit your life, as I understand it. With that being the case, I am just expressing my opinion and feelings on the matter, thus my comments.

Now, I ask this question to you. Once the beer and wine store is open in Iqaluit, and I happen to be in town on medical travel or for a meeting and I get the urge to get some wine, would I be able to go buy wine based on the daily limits you imposed? I would purchase a substance that has no nutritional value. If I took the wine I purchased home with me, then my family to whom I am arriving would have no nutritious food since I am bringing wine. Further, if making merry with the wine and partying, my sobriety as a healthy person would disappear. If I were to black out, it immediately places my children at risk.

Has the transportation of alcohol to outlying communities been considered? With the limits that were mentioned, would I have complete freedom to bring my purchases of wine or beer to my home community? Is this the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. I was hopeful that he would be

more optimistic about the beer and wine store opening in Iqaluit.

As he knows, we all know, and practically everybody knows, hard liquor is already getting into our communities in Nunavut; restricted, prohibited, and open. There is a flourishing bootlegging business. The estimates are between \$10 million and \$20 million of bootlegging going on a year in Nunavut. The booze is getting into the towns already. It doesn't matter if they're restricted or prohibited, it's getting there. If there is a bootlegger in the town, the only reason the bootleggers can thrive and do business in that community is because people want to drink.

When they come to Iqaluit from a restricted community or prohibited community or wet community, they don't have to go down to the beer and wine store to drink. They can go to one of the bars or local establishments. There are many places where you can get beer, wine, or hard stuff. Of course in Iqaluit there are also the bootleggers that are here. They're more than willing to sell you a bottle for \$300 or \$400 per bottle. Of course when they do that, the money that you had to buy food is gone to the bootlegger.

You could go to the beer and wine store. You have to apply for a customer account, supply the ID, and meet the criteria to determine... I don't know what it will be yet, but you have to be approved for a customer account and then that customer account only permits you to buy one case of beer per day and two bottles of wine at an affordable cost and low alcohol content. You could take that back to your hotel room or go visit your friends. That's your right as a

citizen of Canada. There are no restrictions in Iqaluit that I know of that prevent people from expressing their right to choose to drink. It doesn't matter if they come from a restricted community or a prohibited community.

However, if they're from a prohibited community and they're trying to bring their one case of beer and two bottles of wine back to that community, then they're breaking the law. If they're from a restricted community and if they hadn't applied to the alcohol education committee for a permit to bring in a certain amount of alcohol, then again they're breaking the law. They would have to either have a permit to bring it into a restricted community or they can't bring any beer and wine at all into a prohibited community.

The intention of this beer and wine store, again, I keep reminding everybody, it's to disrupt the bootleggers who are out there and reduce the binge drinking so that you're not sitting there getting a 60 ounce bottle at \$500 a bottle and then drinking it in five minutes. We know that goes on and that leads to a lot of violence and unhealthy lifestyles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for somewhat alleviating my concern on this matter and I better understand the gist behind the initiative. My concerns are lessened, although I still have concerns.

With that intention as voiced and with the objective to do a pilot project and

consequent results of having the beer and wine readily available, binge drinking would be lowered and that is the foundation for pursuing this pilot project.

Although I personally don't approve of this project, I understand the reasoning for your pilot project and future decisions will be made based on the findings of the pilot project and that it will not run permanently. I can only offer my thanks for clarifying that. Mr. Chairman, I thank you and that is all for me.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that was just a comment, not a question. Even though there was no question, Minister Peterson, I'll give you an opportunity to address that last comment if you wish to do so. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his concerns. I know he has been around for a long time and he has seen the ravages of hard alcohol on Nunavummiut. I think most of us have. We know friends or family members who have become very ill or even possibly died because of alcohol.

The intention here through this beer and wine store is to give us the opportunity to help Nunavummiut, to provide them with the beer and wine, as I said, that's affordable, disrupt the bootleggers, and reduce the binge drinking. Also part and parcel with the beer and wine store, and these are recommendations from the Nunavut Liquor Task Force, are the social responsibility programs. We're going to be putting out lots of ads and spots in newspapers, in TVs, other

materials and resources out there to educate people about the dangers of binge drinking, drink responsibly, and educate them over time, especially the younger people who, as we always say, are our future.

We're doing this with good intentions, not to make a lot of money or anything. It's something that the task force, in their research, has said that Greenland had great success, Northern Quebec has had good success, and we believe it's something that we should try. Over the years it's the stark reality that there's a serious drinking problem in Nunavut. Most of that is attributable to the hard liquor, bootleggers supplying hard liquor, and binge drinking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Peterson and your staff.

Mr. Chairman, one of the responses, if I heard the minister correctly, referred to evaluating the impacts of beer and wine on the local community. Can you clarify if you meant just in Iqaluit, or will the department and the government as a whole be considering the impacts on outlying communities? Cape Dorset and Kimmirut are one of the closest communities to Iqaluit. There's easier access. It's the hub for the Baffin region. How far are you going to be monitoring this beer and wine outlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. The primary impact will be on the city of Iqaluit, so that's where we would be primarily concerned. It is in Iqaluit. More than likely most of the customer accounts that are approved will be from Iqaluit. If we hear concerns from the other communities, we would take those concerns into consideration when we're doing our evaluation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think many people will be having a close eye on the effects of this opening of a beer and wine store. Can you state if there's specific...? I was looking at the report that I was waving earlier today, taking steps to reduce alcohol harm, and on the last page it talks about monitoring and evaluation. Will there be specific staff? Can you clarify if there's individual staff or how many that will be tasked with looking at...?

The first people that come to mind are the RCMP. We know that they compile statistics on crimes and if it's related to alcohol. Yesterday the minister was talking about the ride-along with some of the members here in Iqaluit. I'm sure some of the calls or maybe all of them were alcohol-related. How is that going to be compiled in terms of monitoring the effects, not only here in Iqaluit but also in other communities outside of Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. When I did the RCMP ride-along back in April 2010, we started at 6:00 and I went off shift at 4:00. Most of the issues that developed that we were involved in were people that were in bars or just left bars and they were going to parties. It had nothing to do with the liquor from a warehouse or from a beer and wine store.

My point is the people who were already drinking that night were in the bars, they were at parties, they got their alcohol from somewhere, but yes, there were problems with alcohol. When I was on that shift, from what I could visibly see, the alcohol was not beer or wine; it was the hard stuff.

To answer his question, we would use existing resources within our Department of Finance, which includes the Nunavut Liquor Commission, and we do have a working relationship with the RCMP to exchange information on liquor purchases and other information in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does he have an idea of...? I'm going back to this report. On the last page it says and it talks about the government, through different departments, will take steps to monitor, evaluate, and track the success of the actions set out in this document, meaning when they're opening the beer and wine store, the successes that they're going to be tracking but also the challenge is in what people are expecting

out of this opening. Mr. Shooyook, Mr. Okalik, and Mr. Enook, everyone has concerns about the negative effects that might come out of it.

Does the minister have an idea of how many, let's say, staff or people in the government will be monitoring this opening of the beer and wine store? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. Mr. Chairman, I'll again go back in time, not very far this time, but we did our extensive community consultations in Iqaluit. I won't get into all the details.

We had the plebiscite on April 20, 2015. There were close to 1,500 people that came out on that day, 40 percent of the eligible voters, and 78 percent of those people voted in favour of the Government of Nunavut opening up a beer and wine store, government-regulated, as per the recommendations of the Nunavut Liquor Task Force.

There are a lot of positive feelings in town about a beer and wine store. The city council was involved with their motions supporting the plebiscite at the time. They approved our variances recently or yesterday to renovate the liquor warehouse. Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of positive and optimistic people in Iqaluit.

I recognize that there are people that are concerned. Again, I'm going to keep harping on this. This is beer and wine. This is low alcohol content beer and

wine. It's not vodka. It's not Johnny Walker. It's none of that stuff. It's none of the hard stuff like 40 percent. This is low content alcohol, affordable beer and wine.

Again, it's too early to tell. We're using our existing resources going forward to monitor. We haven't opened up the beer and wine store. We're preparing now the application process for the customer accounts. We will be working with our partners on how we're going to monitor and evaluate the ongoing operation of the beer and wine store and what kind of data we will be collecting to help us evaluate the success or failure of the beer and wine store three years after it opens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear a response to my question. Does the department or the government as a whole have a number like how many employees will be under the responsibility or part of their role is to monitor the effects of the opening of the beer and wine store? Can you say if there are a number of employees in the Department of Finance or the Department of Justice or the government as a whole? Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Chairman. I thought I did answer the question. I said that we will use existing resources. We're renovating the existing liquor warehouse and that operates under the auspices of the Nunavut Liquor Commission. They have their staff. I met

the staff out there. We also have policy people in the Department of Finance that can work closely with the Nunavut Liquor Commission. We do have partnerships and a relationship with the RCMP to exchange information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave that for a bit.

The communities I represent, my constituency being Cape Dorset and Kimmirut, will be clearly affected and other outlying communities. Can the minister say why those communities did not participate in a vote? We know there was a plebiscite here in Iqaluit, but it will affect other outlying communities. Can he respond to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It wasn't a regional plebiscite. It wasn't a territorial plebiscite. It was a community plebiscite and you have to be an eligible voter of the city of Iqaluit to vote in a plebiscite for this community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know that Iqaluit is the capital of Nunavut, the hub for the Baffin region. Anyone who goes south has to go through Iqaluit. If you're going anywhere from the smaller communities

or from anywhere in the Baffin, you have to go through Iqaluit to get anywhere. I guess in a sense we are part of Iqaluit. It's the hub and headquarters. There are so many conferences and events held here. Other communities will be affected either way. I'm trying to get at why the communities outside of Iqaluit didn't participate in a plebiscite. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the *Liquor Act*, the individual communities can apply for their own if they get 20 names on a petition. If Cape Dorset wants to have a plebiscite related to liquor, then they get 20 names on a petition and it's local. It's the same with Kimmirut or any community.

In Iqaluit there was a petition that I just forget the exact number. There were 99 names on a petition asking the Government of Nunavut to hold a plebiscite on the question of opening a beer and wine store in Iqaluit. The City of Iqaluit verified that the 99 names or most of the 99 names on that petition were eligible voters of Iqaluit.

We asked the question from the Government of Nunavut to the City of Iqaluit, "Do you support us holding a plebiscite on the question of opening a beer and wine store in Iqaluit?" The City of Iqaluit passed a motion saying, "Yes, we support the Government of Nunavut holding a plebiscite on the question of opening a beer and store in Iqaluit." That's exactly what we did.

We worked with Elections Nunavut, there was a consultation process, and we had elections and held the vote on April 20, 2015. We didn't tell people how to vote. They came out, the eligible voters that showed up that day, and 78 percent of them said, "We support the opening of a beer and wine store in Iqaluit."

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering too now: what is the opinion of the law enforcement agency, the RCMP "V" Division? We know that they have a lot of call-outs with alcohol-related incidents.

We know there are many local vendors for alcohol, the establishments here. I think the minister explained that there is a whole list of places where you can get it. Now there is going to be an extra option to access alcohol. We know it's beer and wine, but at the same time it's alcohol nonetheless.

The RCMP, to my understanding, has said that whenever there is more alcohol, it creates more call-outs and there is more unrest. Have they had a position on the beer and wine store opening? What feedback have they provided? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we put the Nunavut Liquor Task Force together, one of the members of the task force was a representative of the RCMP.

As I said, the task force went around all the communities in Nunavut. They didn't miss a single community, Mr. Chairman. They went to every community. They gave us two reports, what we heard and then the recommendations. One of the recommendations was to open a beer and wine store specifically to disrupt bootleggers and reduce the binge drinking. The RCMP was part of the task force. They put that recommendation forward.

I think the RCMP is very cognizant of the fact that the most serious issue to Nunavut is the hard alcohol. I have talked about it. I have seen the effects of hard alcohol myself on many of my friends and others in Cambridge Bay. We're not selling 60-ounce bottles of Smirnoff; we're selling 12-can cases of beer up to 500 millilitres a can and two bottles of wine. In my quick calculation, that's probably one-quarter of the alcohol content of a 60-ounce bottle of Smirnoff.

The RCMP, given their choice, probably wants to see a reduction in the purchase of hard alcohol. They would like to see an elimination of bootleggers. They deal all the time with people who binge drink large bottles. Knowing what I know from the RCMP and talking to them over the years, they understand the spirit and intent of the beer and wine store is to disrupt the bootleggers and reduce the binge drinking from hard alcohol.

We understand and we know from all the best research that we have done in the task force has shown that beer and wine stores will have that intended effect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I'm good for now. I'm lost for more questions. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on page C-4. (interpretation ends) Finance. Corporate Management. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I am not an Iqaluit resident nor from the Baffin region, I still wish to comment on the beer and wine store. Iqaluit is the capital of Nunavut and the headquarters for most departments, so all Inuit may be impacted by this development that our minister spoke to.

Let me first start with welcoming the minister and his officials.

As per the minister's response, this store will be a pilot project, but I really don't know the details. What many northern residents are concerned with is alcohol abuse has led to the loss of life, but I am unaware of whether the numbers are high or not. The concern shared by many people and continually voiced relates to our experiences.

However, if our future generations of young people are properly taught about alcohol and responsible drinking, they can make an educated lifestyle choice based on the rights and freedoms of our laws.

Now, I would like to clearly understand if this store will be self-funded, as operational funds will be required. Will

this be a privately operated store or will the government operate the store for the pilot project? I have not heard this detail, so I would like to get that clarified. That is my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Qirngnuq for the question. Mr. Chairman, the task force recommended that it be a government owned and regulated beer and wine store and that's exactly what it will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't partake in the consumption of the hard liquor, although I am an occasional user of the weaker variety. Between the higher proofed liquor and the alcohol content for beer and wine and the insinuation that it won't affect drinkers as quickly, I can't determine that.

With respect to the associated dangers of daily beer or wine consumption, what impact does that have? I have lost my train of thought. Are there any associated health issues associated with beer and wine that can affect the body? I would like to get further clarification, although I am aware that the minister is no doctor. I just want to be completely aware if there are any associated dangers. If he knows the answer, he can answer it, but I'll understand if he can't answer it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a good question. I guess it would all depend on how much beer you drink. We have all heard of the beer gut. If you drink too much beer, you're going to get a beer gut and your body changes. If you were to drink large quantities of beer, you would probably pass out or get sick. We also heard that drinking a couple of glasses of wine a day is supposedly good for your heart. I mean I'm not a doctor. I'm not a scientist. There are pros and cons.

Again, what we're trying to do here is advocate and educate for socially responsible drinking. Don't go down and get your case of beer and drink it all at once, but if you do, it's only a case. It's better to drink a bottle of beer every hour and that's 12 ounces, but don't drink 12 bottles over an hour, and that kind of stuff. It all depends on how much you drink. If you drink to excess, then it's probably not going to be good for your health.

Again, the higher alcohol content in the alcohol... . When you drink a lot of hard alcohol, everybody has heard of cirrhosis of the liver. Your liver receives the alcohol and it processes it. It can do serious damage to your internal organs if you drink enough or a long enough time, especially the hard stuff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I'm asking is we have really been a

prohibited community, but the people who support prohibition are dying off. Their concerns are still valid as they fear what will happen with the lifting of prohibition. Thinking of that, that is why I'm asking this question. If there is to be a plebiscite in Kugaaruk, I would to be assured that the plebiscite question is clear enough for everyone to understand, otherwise it will cause confusion and the vote results will be a farce not reflective of the true wishes of Kugaaruk residents. This is just a general comment and that's my last one, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I don't think it's a question, but if Minister Peterson wishes, you have the floor.

Hon. Keith Peterson: No, minister or Mr. Chairman, I don't have a comment. I have called you Chairman, Speaker, and minister.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) As long as we get the work done, eh?
(interpretation) We are on Finance. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,475,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. C-5. It reads, Finance. Fiscal Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. The most recent annual report of the Nunavut

Liquor Commission indicates that one of the issues that were discussed at a recent meeting of the Association of Liquor Licensing Authorities of Canada was the coming decriminalization of marijuana and the possible involvement of liquor licensing authorities in the sale, distribution, and regulation of marijuana.

On November 1, 2016 you stated in the Legislative Assembly that the Department of Finance, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health had formed a working group to address the issue of marijuana legalization and distribution in Nunavut. What have been the conclusions and recommendations of the working group? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. This item came up at a federal-provincial-territorial justice ministers' meeting in Halifax in October. The ministers discussed the impending legislation from the federal government and the impact that they have in our respective jurisdictions. Of course, as the ministers of justice, we were urging the Government of Canada that if this federal legislation comes through, we would have to have a period of time before we could adjust to that legislation.

I talked to the parliamentary secretary to the minister of justice who was here last month. Just in a private conversation, I asked him, "How is that looking?" He said, "Start preparing." Our joint committee of the three territories met with the task force to provide our input.

That was last August. I think the report only came out in December. We are reviewing it. The internal government departments are still preliminary. We're working on reviewing the report.

We have an eye on the legislation. It's going to be a challenge in Nunavut, I'm sure you can appreciate, because we only have two liquor warehouses in Nunavut. If this legislation gets passed, how do we set it up to distribute? I probably have a million questions that I could think up and I have no answers for you right now. It's totally foreign territory for all provinces and territories at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question here would be if marijuana were to be decriminalized within Nunavut, each and every community within Nunavut... . Some communities are prohibited, some communities are restricted, and some communities are open with alcohol for their respective communities, which is the outcome of a plebiscite vote. If that were the case, would there be plebiscites regarding marijuana once you get the ruling from the federal government coming into our territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, I'll give you the discretion to respond, but (interpretation ends) it's almost hypothetical. (interpretation) I'll leave it up to you to respond. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. It's a good question. Again, as I said earlier, I've got lots of questions myself. As you said, it's almost hypothetical. The legislation hasn't been passed. We don't even know if it's going to be passed. We can't presuppose that it will be passed. They have a majority government in Ottawa, so there's a good chance it will get passed.

As I said, as the ministers of justice, we have spoken that if it does get passed, we would need a few years in our respective jurisdictions to figure out how we're going to deal with the distribution. Those kinds of questions you asked about plebiscites in local communities, those are questions we're going to have to figure out. I can't sit here today and tell you what the answer is going to be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing that question to pass through. At the same time, with the established working group, the Department of Finance, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health, I guess this would be my next question here: when you look at this, what recommendations are you submitting to the federal government on behalf of Nunavut as a working group and any consultations with our Member of Parliament? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. Our recommendations will probably be around the implementation of the Act once the feds make their decision on how it will be implemented in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on Finance. Fiscal Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$7,292,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. C-6. Finance. Comptrollership. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to just go back to the government's 2014 Budget Address where it announced that the government would, and I quote, "review processes this year for monitoring grants and contributions to ensure that we receive good value from these agreements."

Your department's draft 2017-2020 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to conduct the phase 2 audit of grants and contributions of the GN departments. To what extent is this audit addressing the issue of value for money from the government's grants and contributions spending? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, before you respond, I would like to recognize a visitor in the gallery who used to be an MLA. Mr. Shewchuk, welcome to the House.

Minister Peterson, if you didn't forget the question. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Shewchuk.

My memory is getting kind of foggy, but I can certainly remember something that was asked two minutes ago.

Mr. Chairman, fortunately I have brought Mr. Chown here. I would like him to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Chown.

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The phase 2 audits that are being referred to are currently underway and we're anticipating those to be done within the not-too-distant future. Those audits will be looking at the grants and contributions programs from the perspective of whether or not the departments are complying with their grants and contributions policies as far as allocating the funds in accordance with those policies and as to whether or not they're monitoring the recipients to ensure that they're spending the funds in accordance with those policies.

In addition part of this audit work will be looking at whether the departments that run these programs are properly monitoring the programs to ensure that they're providing the intended outcomes, determining whether or not they're assessing the effectiveness of those programs. It would be the departments responsible for determining whether the programs are providing the benefits that they were expecting. We will be looking to see whether or not they have measures in place to measure and report on the effectiveness of those programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does the government currently measure and evaluate the effectiveness of its grants and contributions expenditures at the moment, if they do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. Mr. Chairman, that's what the audit is for, to see if departments are doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the audit report is not done yet, but I'm just wondering: on average how many audits does the government anticipate that you will do each year on these grants and contributions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chown tells me that we're looking at six to seven departments as part of the audit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We're on C-6. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. Your department's draft 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan reflect a number of organizational changes, including the conversion of the internal audit function from a branch to a division in the Comptrollership Branch. Why is this reorganization being undertaken, and what is it intended to accomplish? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have Mr. Chown answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Chown.

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having been in the department for a while, I've got a bit of the history with respect to internal audits. When I first came to the department around 10 years ago, internal audit was a direct reporting to the comptroller general.

As part of our restructuring a few years back when we merged with Human Resources and we were reallocating functions within the department, one of the decisions we made at the time was to move the internal audit function under the deputy minister. Again, as we have looked at things over the last few years and we have done our restructuring, moving all the human resources functions together, part of that restructuring and rebalancing was a decision to move the function back under the comptroller general.

If you were to look at other jurisdictions, the internal audit function shows up in different places. There's no one perfect answer for it, but certainly there's a good fit for that under the comptroller general. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you evaluate Internal Audit Services' effectiveness in carrying out its mission and identifying opportunities to enhance, as the official indicated, its management and work processes, as well as its value to the Government of Nunavut, what conclusions has this evaluation reached? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for his question. I'm not sure if I understand the question clearly, but if you're asking if Internal Audit Services is valuable to the government, it's extremely valuable to the government.

They do a wide range of audits ranging from performance audits to compliance audits, forensic audits, and operational audits. They can be at the request of the department or we can do them ourselves and go in on a specific issue. They can work with departments as well in terms of providing support to the departments on how to operate their programs and services and other functions.

It's a very valuable division within our department. There are a lot of benefits to our department and to all government

departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. When we look at this department, how many audits does this section of your department conduct on an annual basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the delay.

Using the most recent stats, Internal Audit Services completed seven operational audits, two operational reviews, one investigative audit, and one advisory service audit. If I go back to 2015-16, they closed 22 files, which included 18 operational audits and 4 investigative audits.

I have to point out that an operational audit isn't something you can do in two days. It could take you two weeks or two months or six months depending on the nature of audit, the complexity of the audit, and the cooperation of individuals supplying the information. You may have to fly out to another community to do the audit.

It's a specialized field to be an auditor and they have to work with people and those people have to be available. We can't expect them to do 50 audits or 100 audits a year. We have to develop an annual audit plan on what we're going to audit, and then prioritize those and work with the departments on specific projects

if they want us to audit them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In listening to the minister's response, I guess this next question is: in various departments of Government of Nunavut... Since elected, I have noticed that there have been a number of intern positions within other various government departments. Under Article 23 of our *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, are there any current interns within this particular department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. We have three interns in the Department of Finance overall, but we don't have any in internal audit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Are there any future plans or in the business plans in the upcoming years or months of having intern positions within that particular department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. We don't have any immediate plans for an intern in that

division. Again, it would depend on if there is an opportunity there and if there is some interest within the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on Finance. Comptrollership. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,654,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. C-7. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were provided a spreadsheet showing some direct appointments over the years. I won't say them all, but I'll just use last year's. It said that for 2015-16 there were 49 direct appointments, 43 beneficiaries and 6 non-beneficiaries. Being it close to the end of this fiscal year, does the department have any statistics on the number of direct appointments and a breakdown of beneficiaries to non-beneficiaries? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can Mr. Rumbolt clarify: is that within our department or the Government of Nunavut overall? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm talking about the

government's public service annual reports that indicated these numbers, appointments by cabinet. That's if the minister can understand that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for clarifying that. Currently we have four approved and three more to go forward to cabinet. They're all beneficiaries. I have to point out that there has been like an inverse relationship. We came out last year with a restricted competition directive. There has been an increase in employees receiving jobs through the restricted competition process and a decrease in direct appointments during that period. Now we're moving back towards getting more or encouraging the departments to submit individuals for direct appointments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different topic, what is the 2017-18 budget for the Summer Student Employment Equity Program? How does this amount to previous years' budgets for the program? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. It's the same amount this year and the next fiscal year, \$985,000. Again, the departments supplement internally. There is \$985,000 available

through us, but the departments would apply for funding from us or they use their own funds. That's how we got from 154 summer students a few years ago to 249 last year. The departments are encouraged to hire summer students using their own funds as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. The proposed 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Family Services indicates that 30 students participated in that department's new Summer Employment for Nunavut Students Program. This program provides wage subsidies to hamlets and private sector employers.

To what extent does the Department of Finance and the Department of Family Service coordinate the administration of the two summer employment programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. Mr. Chairman, I'll ask Ms. Power to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Power.

Ms. Power: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As they did the pilot last year, it wasn't a big project. They only hired 30 students this year. They have, I believe, doubled their budget. We will be working more closely with them this year to make sure

we're aligned and make sure we focus on decentralized communities, where there is less government opportunity and maybe more area for them to help students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Finance. Human Resources. Following the list of names, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recognize the clock and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor and it is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out of the witness table.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

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

opposed. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm requesting to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member for Arviat is requesting to go to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Savikataaq, please proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize someone who used to work in this House and someone who used to live in Arviat who is here for NWMB meetings. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Dan Shewchuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery.

(interpretation ends) 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 meetings for tomorrow, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at nine o'clock and there's a meeting of the Full Caucus at eleven o'clock. Both meetings are in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 9:

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
 - Bill 37
 - Bill 40
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 19
 - Bill 26
 - Bill 27
 - Bill 30

- 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 Thursday, March 9, at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:02*

