



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 74

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Pages 4235 – 4271

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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

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

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

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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

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

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

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

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

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

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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	4235
Money Message.....	4235
Ministers' Statements	4235
Members' Statements	4239
Oral Questions.....	4242
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	4265
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills	4266
First Reading of Bills	4266
Second Reading of Bills.....	4266
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	4267
Report of the Committee of the Whole	4270
Orders of the Day	4270

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, May 31, 20174235

B.

Ministers' Statements

296 – 4(3): Canada Post Unveils Nunavut Stamp for Canada at 150 (Taptuna)4235
297 – 4(3): Sound Fields in Education for Nunavut Youth (Quassa).....4236
298 – 4(3): Let's Be Aware/Ujjiqsuqta Launched (Peterson)4236
299 – 4(3): FANS Enhancements (Mike).....4237
300 – 4(3): Nunavut Community Cleanups (Savikataaq)4238
301 – 4(3): Math and Science Award (Ell-Kanayuk).....4238

C.

Members' Statements

555 – 4(3): Recent Fishing Derby in Arctic Bay (Shooyook)4239
556 – 4(3): Commissioner's Awards Ceremony in Kimmirut (Joanasie)4240
557 – 4(3): Recognizing the Needs of Smaller Communities (Sammurtok, T)4240
558 – 4(3): High School Graduates from Qikiqtarjuaq (Keyootak)4241
559 – 4(3): Fishing Derby Winners in Pangnirtung (Mike)4242

D.

Oral Questions

722 – 4(3): Staff Housing (Angnakak).....4242
723 – 4(3): Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre (Sammurtok, A)4244
724 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet's Freshwater Supply (Sammurtok, T).....4245
725 – 4(3): Grays Bay Port and Road Project (Akoak)4246

726 – 4(3): Cannabis Legalization (Mikkungwak).....	4248
727 – 4(3): Sewage Issues in Naujaat (Mapsalak)	4249
728 – 4(3): The Need for Improving Boarding Home Facilities (Shooyook)	4251
729 – 4(3): Federal Funding to Support Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun (Joanasie)	4254
730 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou Management (Keyootak)	4255
731 – 4(3): Pond Inlet Marine Facility (Enook).....	4257
732 – 4(3): Tourism (Angnakak).....	4258
733 – 4(3): Options for Government of Nunavut Infrastructure (Enook)	4259
734 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet’s Hamlet Office (Sammurtok, A)	4260
735 – 4(3): Franklin Expedition (Akoak).....	4262
736 – 4(3): Departmental Vacancies (Joanasie).....	4263

E.

Motions

049 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period (Enook).....	4257
---	------

F.

Bills

Bill 46 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – Notice.....	4266
Bill 46 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – First Reading.....	4266
Bill 46 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – Second Reading	4266
Bill 44 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018 – Consideration in Committee	4267

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Alexander Sammurtoq, Mr. Tom Sammurtoq, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

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

Before we proceed, I will read a letter that I have received from the Commissioner of Nunavut. It reads:

Money Message

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Third Session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 46, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*

Sincerely, Nellie T. Kusugak, Order of Nunavut, Commissioner of Nunavut

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 296 – 4(3):
Canada Post Unveils Nunavut Stamp for Canada at 150

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, yesterday Canada Post unveiled a stamp as part of Canada's 150th anniversary and celebrations.

The stamp features Leah Ejangiaq Kines from Arctic Bay. It's a photo of her taken by her husband, Clare Kines. As part of a series, the Nunavut stamp honours 10 national moments in Canada's history.

Mr. Speaker, the stamp celebrates a special moment in Canadian history: the creation of Nunavut. For Inuit it was a life-changing moment and one that Inuit had championed for many years prior to signing the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* on April 1, 1999.

While Canada celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, Nunavut only celebrates its 18th year as a territory, yet Inuit history in our land spans thousands of years.

Having the right to self-government is deeply important to Nunavummiut and I

am proud that we have come this far together.

I would like to thank the Speaker, the Commissioner of Nunavut, Canada Post, guests, and Members of the Assembly for joining us yesterday for the special unveiling that celebrates Nunavut's creation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 297 – 4(3):
Sound Fields in Education for
Nunavut Youth**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inclusive education promotes a model of education where all students have access to the education program with their peers.

Mr. Speaker, many of our students suffer from hearing loss. This has an impact on their ability to learn. It also affects their social and emotional development. The prevalence of hearing loss in Nunavut children is estimated to be up to 40 percent higher than in other parts of Canada. There are limited opportunities for formal screening of preschool or school-aged children, so hearing loss can go undiagnosed until later in the child's life.

My department is taking action to support students with both known and undiagnosed hearing loss through the sound fields for learning project.

Mr. Speaker, since 2015 ten schools have had sound field systems installed in learning spaces to amplify the teacher's voice to ensure students hear clearly. The installations were launched along with hands-on training for staff, students, and parents around hearing loss and its connection to learning. This initial phase was accomplished through a partnership with Better Hearing in Education for Northern Youth and Qikiqtani School Operations.

My department will continue with the project and has ordered 200 new systems to be installed in the remaining schools across the territory. This project supports students by addressing hearing loss as a barrier to learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 298 – 4(3): Let's
Be Aware/Ujjiqsuqta Launched**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Let's Be Aware/Ujjiqsuqta, a responsible use of alcohol campaign that I publicly launched in Cambridge Bay on March 22 and that is now being rolled out across Nunavut.

Let's Be Aware/Ujjiqsuqta was developed to promote healthy and informed choices as a way to prevent alcohol-related harm throughout the territory. The campaign will help Nunavut move toward the vision Nunavummiut have described: healthier and happier communities and safer

communities where the negative effects of alcohol are significantly reduced.

The goal of the campaign is to empower local communities through education and awareness. Materials, resources, and activities in all languages are being created for the general public, alcohol education committees, individuals working in helping professions, as well as youth and young adults.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut can also find useful information, facts, tips, and resources on the Let's Be Aware/Ujjiqsuqta website at www.responsiblenunavut.ca or www.ujjiqsuqta.ca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 299 – 4(3):
FANS Enhancements**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start, the residents of my community are in my thoughts as they will be attending a funeral this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that effective April 1, 2017 changes have been made to the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Student (FANS) program to allow more individuals to access student financial assistance for post-secondary education and reduce the amount of personal financial burden that students incur.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services has increased the amount of reimbursement for adult learners in successfully completed distance education courses from \$250 per course, plus \$200 for books, plus fees and postage, to \$1,000 per course, including books, fees, and software with a lifetime limit of \$10,000 of reimbursed expenses. Increasing support to distance education studies will allow more adults to access learning opportunities while also attending to their work and home commitments.

(interpretation) The second change is an increase to the number of cities eligible for travel benefits under the FANS basic grant. (interpretation ends) The department recognizes that a growing number of Nunavut post-secondary students are attending institutions outside of Ottawa, Montreal, Edmonton, and Winnipeg. (interpretation) The number of cities has now been expanded to 31 across Canada, which will reduce or eliminate the additional travel costs students previously needed to pay themselves.

Mr. Speaker, these enhancements are a direct result of our commitment and dedication to providing the best assistance for our students, and to ensure that a lack of finances does not pose a barrier to post-secondary education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 300 – 4(3):
Nunavut Community Cleanups**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform members that again this year the Department of Environment will be organizing community cleanups across the territory. For over a decade now this annual event has become a key component of the department's pollution prevention program. In addition to cleaning up litter that accumulates over the winter, the cleanups have proven successful in fostering community pride.

All communities across Nunavut are participating this year and they will be holding community cleanups some time before the end of July.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut community cleanups are a joint effort between the Department of Environment and hamlets throughout the territory. Nunavut Tourism and corporate sponsors also play an important role in these events.

Students in schools throughout Nunavut were invited to participate in a contest designing a t-shirt and a poster for the event.

I would like to congratulate all students who participated in the 2016-17 contest. The winners are Jenova Aggark, a grade 6 student at Qitiqliq Middle School in Arviat designed the winning t-shirt, and Isabel Tugak, a grade 1 student at Rachel Arngnamaktiq Elementary School in Baker Lake designed the winning poster. Congratulations to Jenova and Rachel!

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Nunavummiut to get involved in this cleanup event and show our pride in this

great land we call home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 301 – 4(3): Math
and Science Award**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Math and science are important foundations for many great careers, including geologists to airline pilots. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation recognizes students in grades 8, 10, and 12 with math and science awards for their skill, dedication, and effort in those subjects.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I regularly rise to highlight the success of our high school and college graduates. Today I would like to shine the spotlight on some of the younger Nunavummiut, the grade 8 math and science awards recipients. The grade 8 recipients this year are:

- Claire Tookanachiak from Baker Lake
- Mike Simik from Chesterfield Inlet
- Kyrsten Eetuk from Coral Harbour
- Parker Faulkner and Nolan Tattuinee from Rankin Inlet
- Macleod Arnatsiaq from Naujaat

- Byron Rudolph from Gjoa Haven
- Lorenza Nasalik and Michael Ihakkaq from Kugaaruk
- Mackenzie Demerah from Kugluktuk
- Lalena Quqqiaq from Taloyoak
- Lloyd Willie and Ischadd Aola from Arctic Bay
- Jenine Kautuk from Clyde River
- Bianca Amaaq from Igloolik
- Max Joy and Nathan Hunt from Iqaluit
- Jesse Iqaluk from Resolute Bay
- Luke Qavvik from Sanikiluaq

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating these students for their achievements and encourage them to continue on their pathway to rewarding careers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 555 – 4(3): Recent Fishing Derby in Arctic Bay

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay,

residents of my community, and the people who are watching the proceedings. Welcome to the Assembly.

I rise today to express my pride in the people of my community. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. We have an annual fishing derby in our community and they try to catch either the largest fish or the smallest fish. They just went through that and we should be very proud of them.

For the 2017 fishing derby, a novel approach was tried in awarding prizes. The first prize is a snowmobile for catching the largest fish. The second prize is large as well, which is \$5,000. There was another aspect for people who don't have transportation equipment to catch sculpins, which was the oldest sculpin. There was also a prize to the winner who got the largest sculpin of \$5,000. I'm very proud of them.

Mr. Speaker, there was a tie when fish were measured as to which one is longer. They had to declare it a draw. It was an absolute tie. My daughter-in-law's name was drawn and she won a brand-new snowmobile.

The fishing derby really is a positive event for the community. I want to express my pride. I would like all my fellow MLAs here to join me in applauding this event as well as the people who are watching the proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 556 – 4(3):
Commissioner's Awards
Ceremony in Kimmirut**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a number of my constituents in Kimmirut who recently received Commissioner's Awards.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement yesterday, I had the honour of welcoming Commissioner Nellie Kusugak to the community at the end of March. Her visit, which coincided with the opening of the community's new wellness centre, marked an occasion to recognize the achievements and contributions of a number of deserving individuals.

Mr. Speaker, the recipients of the Commissioner's Awards for Bravery were Simeonie Aqpiq and the late Gotileak Judea. Although Gotileak is no longer with us, he was able to be represented by his wife, Akulujuk Judea, and that worked out really well.

Mr. Speaker, four Kimmirummiut were honoured with the Award for Humanitarianism: Pitseolak Qimirpiq, J.J. Akavak, Donnie Kolola, and Kootoo Ikkidluak. They helped save Jawlie Akavak. People were really happy about that.

Mr. Speaker, last but not least, special recognition awards were presented to the Kimmirut volunteer firefighters, the Kimmirut search and rescue team, and

the Kimmirut Canadian Rangers Patrol. I will not mention all their names, but I would like to mention Kooyoo Padluq, Johnny Lee Judea, Pitsiula Michael, Apak Pudlat, Maliktoo Lyta, Shoati Michael, Atsaina Eeyeevadluk, Qabapi Aningmiuq, Tommy Akavak, Appa Josephie, Josephie Padluq, and Mattoo Michael.

I would like to thank all of you and I congratulate each and every recipient of these prestigious awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause.*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

**Member's Statement 557 – 4(3):
Recognizing the Needs of Smaller
Communities**

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet. The people of Rankin Inlet are in my thoughts as we have just lost a loved one, as well as Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to publicly extend a formal invitation to our cabinet to visit the community of Chesterfield Inlet after the conclusion of our spring sitting.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have the great privilege of representing the residents of two of Nunavut's best and most beautiful communities...

>> *Laughter*

...Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. Although my residence is in Rankin Inlet, my family has deep roots in Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, as a regional centre, Rankin Inlet is always on the government's radar screen. However, Chesterfield Inlet, as a smaller, non-decentralized community, often seems to fall off the radar screen and I consistently hear the message from the community that it feels ignored.

Mr. Speaker, I am perfectly aware that a one- or two-day visit to a community does not solve everything. However, it is important for the government's top leaders to see with their own eyes the conditions of our smaller communities and to meet face to face with the community's local leaders.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I very much look forward to a positive response to my invitation, and (interpretation ends) I look forward to welcoming my friends opposite to Chesterfield Inlet this summer.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 558 – 4(3): High School Graduates from Qikiqtarjuaq

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to all of the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River and to the people who are listening to and watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, before I get to my statement, I would first like to thank the minister responsible for the energy corporation for being able to come to our community. We are gratified by the minister's visit to a very beautiful community, my community of Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my pride in the students who just graduated from our school. I would like to express my pride and congratulate them together with my colleagues here.

We all know that when students complete grade 12, they can do whatever they want and take whatever further education they wish to acquire. We really encourage students to do that when they graduate. We haven't had that many graduates from my community. In the previous year we had one graduate and now this year we have three graduates. We would like to say that we're proud of them in whatever further education they choose.

The three grade 12 graduates in Qikiqtarjuaq are Seemee Pitsiulak, Angela Kooneeliusie, and Kyle [Moesesie]. We're very proud of them all for graduating this past year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 559 – 4(3):
Fishing Derby Winners in
Pangnirtung**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues. While we are on the subject of scenic communities, I also have a wonderfully scenic community in Pangnirtung. People from all over the world also travel to our community as tourists and visit. This includes world leaders who visited our community. I send my greetings to all the people who have visited our community. This is my preamble.

Now, our elder MLA colleague spoke about arctic char and sculpin fishing derbies. In Pangnirtung the hamlet recreation committee held an arctic char and sculpin fishing derby on May 20. They went to Amittuq Lake for the arctic char fishing and they held the sculpin fishing derby right offshore of the community.

I would like to mention the winners of the fishing derby. The adults who won are Willie Atagooyuk, Annie Nakashuk in second place, Alex Alivaktuk in third place, and Peter Kanayuk in fourth place. In the children's class, Jaylynn Nuvaqiq, Kailey Kilabuk, and Benjamin Alivaktuk were the winners. In the sculpin fishing derby, Tommy Angnakak won first prize, second prize went to Jamie Qaqasiq, third prize went to Lena Kakkik, and tied in fourth place were Mary Karpik and Alookie Metuq. In the children's sculpin fishing derby, Kaden Etuangat won first prize, Tina Joanne Nakashuk was second, and third was Kaden Etuangat.

The cash prizes for the derby came from the hunters and trappers organization and the recreation committee, with a combined total of \$20,000. This is an annual fishing derby that they hold in Pangnirtung for arctic char and sculpin. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 722 – 4(3): Staff Housing

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everybody.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and they concern the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Blueprint for Action on Housing*.

Action No. 22 in the blueprint indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will work with the Department of Finance to, and I quote, "analyze the current staff housing rents and subsidies to determine appropriate subsidy levels that encourage staff housing tenants to transition out of government-subsidized housing and into private rental or homeownership."

When I asked the minister about the status of this work back in March, he told the House that he had not been given an update on this issue. I guess

today my question is: is the minister in a position today to tell us what the government is doing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much. Good afternoon, my colleagues. I also thank my colleague for that very good question. Mr. Speaker, I clearly remember the member's question. To date in regard to staff housing, I stated that it was going to be reviewed and they're still reviewing or analyzing the current staff housing. I can't respond to the member's question because they're still working on it. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister can do a Minister's Statement in the next few days as to when he expects that to be done.

Mr. Speaker, an ongoing issue of concern, especially in smaller communities, is the lack of suitable staff housing for teachers and nurses. This shortage impacts the ability of the government to recruit these essential positions.

Action No. 41 in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Blueprint for Action on Housing* indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will, and I quote, "Conduct an impact analysis of various

approaches to social and staff housing delivery..." including, and I quote, "A lease-only model for certain communities whereby the NHC leases staff housing units from private developers."

The *Blueprint for Action on Housing* indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will undertake pilot projects in this area. Can the minister tell us today when and where these pilot projects will take place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member. Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier in my response, we're still working on it. Action No. 41 that the member is referring to is still part of the review and they're still analyzing it for the communities. I can't respond to that question because it's part of the review on Action No. 41. With regard to the blueprint for action, it's still being analyzed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to ask if the minister perhaps can provide us with an update in the House as to when all this will be done and completed.

Mr. Speaker, Action No. 21 in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Blueprint for Action on Housing* indicates that the Nunavut Housing

Corporation and the Department of Finance will, and I quote, “review and revise the GN’s Staff Housing Policy.” Can the minister tell us today if a new staff housing policy will be finalized before the end of the current Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We expect this to be completed during the term of this government, but we don’t expect it to be finalized during this session. I’ll be more prepared to speak to it during the fall session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 723 – 4(3): Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

In recent weeks I have received three different letters signed by the minister concerning the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre, which is currently in progress in Rankin Inlet.

One of these letters indicates that the project is “slated to be commissioned later this year...with an estimated total budget surplus of \$1.5 million.” Another letter indicates that the surplus will be

\$535,000. The third letter indicates that the surplus will be \$500,000.

For the record, can the minister clarify today what the budget surplus figure for the Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre actually is? 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. The project is on schedule and the surplus funds are there while completing the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clearly indicate the specific areas in which the Kivalliq regional centre project underspent its budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): 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. In my earlier comment I meant to say the project had sufficient funds. I don’t have the level of detail the member is asking of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the minister could provide us with that information on a later date.

Can the minister confirm the date on which the new Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre is expected to be opened to the public? 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. The project is proceeding as planned and I understand the Committee of the Whole will be discussing the funds for that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 724 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet’s Freshwater Supply

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of reports in the media this past month that have raised concerns and questions regarding Nunavut’s freshwater supply.

As the minister will recall, in the fall of 2016 I asked him a number of questions regarding Rankin Inlet’s freshwater supply, Nipissar Lake, which is rapidly depleting. In his response the minister stated that his department was “working on getting a water board licence to pump water from First Landing Lake” and that the department anticipated that it would be able to secure that licence “by early summer of 2017.”

Can the minister provide the House today with an update on his department’s work to secure that water licence? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I remember being asked that question. We are still working on the permitting process. The application is currently with NIRB. We believe that all the permitting needed will be done before summer. Once we have the proper permits in place, we will start pumping water to replenish their water supply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister tell us what contingency plans, if any, are currently in place in the event that the community’s freshwater supply is depleted or made suddenly inaccessible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current rate of natural refilling to Nipissar Lake is less than the amount being consumed. Even if we were not to replenish it, there is enough water there for quite a few years. We're fully confident that we will resolve the problem. We do have permission to run from Char River, but Char River only runs when First Landing Lake is high in water since it flows from there. We're dealing with the situation and I can assure the residents of Rankin Inlet that they will not run out of water. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us what specific research or planning is currently being undertaken to monitor Nunavut's current and future water supply needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that we have an overall plan to study all the needs of Nunavut in one big, broad study. We are always looking at water consumption from each community and the resources they have, whether it be a man-made reservoir or a natural reservoir such as a lake, and we monitor them. There are some communities that are having a

current water shortage right now and we deal with them. It's a case-by-case basis. We do have funding under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund and we use some of that to build new reservoirs or expand. We are just dealing with each community on their own merit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Question 725 – 4(3): Grays Bay Port and Road Project

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and the community of Gjoa Haven.

My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The minister's response to my recent written question concerning her department's Strategic Investments Program was tabled yesterday in the Legislative Assembly. Information contained in the response indicates that her department provided \$550,000 to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association during the 2016-17 fiscal year to support the development of the Grays Bay Road and Port Project. For the record, I applaud the government for this important investment.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of our viewing audience and also to my colleagues on this side of the House, can the minister describe how this project is benefitting the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. I believe he's asking about Grays Bay, but it is still being proposed and there could be a lot of items. I believe your question is how this project is benefitting Nunavummiut. It is fully supported by the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

There are a lot of proposals to do for mining projects in those regions. It would also benefit people who would like to take additional training or who are proposing to learn a trade in order to work in that project. For example, there could be heavy equipment operator training and training for other job opportunities that might arise through this project. It could be a big benefit to both regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good to hear. I think you mentioned the Kivalliq instead of the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what support her department is providing towards the Grays Bay Road and Port Project during the current 2017-18 fiscal year? 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 also thank the member for that question. I don't have the information in front of me, but I do know that to date we haven't set aside a large amount of money because we are currently negotiating and working together on this proposed project. We are currently negotiating how we can move this project forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister describe what support the federal government is providing towards the Grays Bay Road and Port Project? 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. All I can say right now is that the details of the new funding that was just initiated by the federal government are currently under review. It looks like there may be an opportunity to submit a proposal under the new federal initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 726 – 4(3): Cannabis
Legalization**

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister will be aware, his federal counterpart recently introduced Bill C-45 in the House of Commons. This federal bill proposes to legalize cannabis across the country.

Mr. Speaker, our minister publicly stated in the Legislative Assembly last November that the Government of Nunavut has formed an interdepartmental working group to address the issue of marijuana legalization in Nunavut. Can the minister indicate what specific actions this working group has undertaken to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The actions of the Government of Canada have certainly put a lot of pressure on provinces and territories to come up with some legislation to be ready for July 1, 2018. I think that's the date I have heard.

As the Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Nunavut and my colleagues across Canada, we have expressed our concern to the Minister of Justice of Canada and the Minister of Public Safety that it's going to be very challenging for most jurisdictions to meet those deadlines and then have processes in place to distribute. It's very complex anyway and probably more complex in

Nunavut given our geography and our distribution network in Nunavut. Those are the kinds of issues that our interdepartmental working groups have been working on.

Now that we're near the end of May and we're in an election year, it complicates things. We have to have legislation of some form in place in time for the federal legislation when it goes into force. Now we've got the pressure of territorial elections. We will be reviewing the recommendations on how to go forward and of course anything we decide will have to go through this cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill C-45 is currently being considered by Parliament and has not yet become law. Will the Government of Nunavut be making a formal submission on this bill and, if so, will the Government of Nunavut be supporting or opposing the legalization of marijuana? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe this government is going to be, like most provinces and territories. I can't speak for them all, but we have expressed our concerns with the legislation and the pressures it's putting on us. We are going to move forward and try to meet their timelines, but it's going to be a challenge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some communities in Nunavut have chosen through local option votes to prohibit the possession or sale of alcohol while other communities have chosen to restrict the possession of this substance through the establishment of alcohol education committees.

For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, can the Minister of Justice clarify whether or not Nunavut communities will be able to restrict the possession and sale of marijuana in the same way that alcohol is regulated and restricted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Mikkungwak certainly knows how to throw curveballs. Maybe he should pitch for the Toronto Blue Jays.

>>*Laughter*

He's got a few knuckleballs, sliders, curveballs, and drop balls.

As I said in my earlier answer, it's going to be quite complicated. In Nunavut we only have the distribution network for alcohol, beer and wine in two warehouses. We have to figure all that out, the logistics and distribution. That's why we have the interdepartmental working committee with a number of departments. There's the legal side of things with Justice; distribution with

Finance. There are health issues and there are other concerns. That will be something that we will be working on.

We're probably going to undertake... I don't want to put any timelines on it, but over the next few months or couple months leading up to September, there are some broad type of community consultations, go out and talk to groups, organizations, and hamlets and get their input, concerns, hear what they have to say, and maybe get some good recommendations on how to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 727 – 4(3): Sewage Issues in Naujaat

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of CGS.

Mr. Speaker, I had posed this question at an earlier sitting regarding the lack of a sewage lagoon in Naujaat. At that time the minister indicated that it was not much of a concern. When there are studies done, we find that the raw sewage that is seeping into the ocean is way too small to be of concern.

However, there are an increasing number of houses being built in Naujaat. Prior to coming here, I went to see the seepage and there's quite a lot of raw material going into the sea and there's even a bay or a pond being formed with raw sewage material.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate to me when it would become a concern and

how much of a quantity would have to be seeping into the ocean for it to become a concern? 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'll answer the member's question this way: it's not the amount of liquids that would determine what is harmful to the ocean; it's what the liquid is. If you have a water truck spill its whole load into the ocean, nobody would complain, but if you have a sewage truck spill its load to the ocean, then someone would complain and there would be regulations against that. It's not the amount of sewage that is going into the ocean; it's the quality or the condition or how much pollutants are in the liquid that is seeping out from natural sewage lagoons or wetland areas that go into the ocean. It's what's in the water, not the amount of the water. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed that may be, but it is rather unsightly to see raw sewage being dumped on the tundra with no designated lagoon. Further, that pond is getting larger due to the sewage dumping in that area.

With that being the situation, the project was deferred or rather it was cut. I refer to the funding that was allocated for that project for the sewage lagoon. Furthermore, it was delayed. I wonder if the minister could respond to my

question on what time frame is involved for this delay. How many years has it been pushed back? 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 can't tell the member exactly how many years it's postponed. It depends on the natural filtration system that is doing the work it's supposed to for Naujaat.

When the study was done, it was completed last year and the report was issued at the end of 2016 or early 2017, I believe, to my department. At that time the current conditions were the natural filtration of the wetlands was doing what it does on its own with sewage that was being pumped there.

The member is right. There is going to come a point where something would have to be done because the quality of the sewage coming out from the natural filtration wetlands has to be of a certain quality. We can't just dump raw sewage into the ocean. There are regulations against that.

I can't tell the member when the time will come, but there will be a time when natural filtration will not work due to the amount of sewage being produced in Naujaat. For now all I can tell the member is that we will monitor the situation and we will revisit the possible sewage lagoon in Naujaat in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform me of how often the studies are conducted? Is it once a year? How many times a year do they study the seepage to the ocean? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dalhousie University has been doing that study for the natural filtration wetland areas in communities. They take their samples in the summer. I don't know exactly the process of how they do it. I'm going to assume they would take the samples where they dump the raw sewage, another one farther out, then farther out, and then farther out 'til it's closest to the ocean. They would see that the samples are getting more purified. That's how the sample is done. It's just done once a season per area, per sewage lagoon. That's my understanding. The study is usually done just once because the natural filtration system would not change year after year unless something abnormal happened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 728 – 4(3): The Need for Improving Boarding Home Facilities

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

We in the Baffin region who seek medical attention are facing a lack of space at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. Patients and pregnant women go here by airplane, and this is a very important issue. There have been serious concerns this year about lack of space at the boarding home.

Has the minister looked into alternative solutions to this problem or has he been informed about the lack of space at the boarding home? When it's over capacity, clients are put in hotels. Does this not result in increased spending or not? I would appreciate it if the minister can describe the problems associated with this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member raising this concern again. The Tammaativvik Boarding Home here in Iqaluit is typically run at 30 percent over capacity, leading to the need to utilize hotels and other facilities, even going so far as to billet people in people's homes where needs arise.

I have also heard concerns of even when people are in hotels, they may even have to change hotels or change rooms partway through their stay due to bookings. Iqaluit is a very busy city and there are different events going on. We do try to take that into consideration when we make specialist appointments. We look at what specialists needs are coming to the community in addition to

what events are being held. We try not to put any additional strain on infrastructure.

We are in continual discussions with the ownership group and the management at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home to continually look at how we can address this ongoing concern. There is a lack of space in Iqaluit, so it is not an overnight solution that we can find.

We do have challenges with the new announcement by the federal government of NIHB funding escort travel for maternity travel, which again increases the number of people at these facilities. That's a very recent announcement, so we are still gauging the implications of that announcement.

Mr. Speaker, I realize I'm not answering the question with a solution, but I can assure the member that we're very aware and we're in continual dialogue with partners to work towards finding a solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand his response. This is a serious matter for medical travel. I'm not pointing at Iqaluit or Sanikiluaq. There are 12 communities that are having real problems with medical travel or with pregnant mothers coming in or those coming here for checkups and those who need CAT scans. With that being the case, there are real challenges with pregnant mothers being able have escorts.

Lack of space will become more of a problem in the future and the Department of Health will have to spend a lot more money. Can the minister and his department and the federal government in Ottawa make funding available in 2018 to build a bigger facility than Tammaativvik that is run by the Government of Nunavut? Have you ever considered such a thing?

It's a real problem, especially for elders and those with physical disabilities. As we keep stating, we respect our elders. With that being the case, have you decided what to do about that situation? I know funding is hard to come by, but have you ever considered how to acquire a larger boarding home? As a minister, have you ever considered that with your department and the government? Can you clarify that to me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate the member's comments and his question. With Churchill being the only boarding home that we actually run as a government, the other boarding homes that we utilize, we do on a contract basis through discussions with Health Canada and Non-Insured Health Benefits on establishing rates and contract conditions.

That being said, one of the options that we are considering is looking at how to expand boarding home infrastructure here in Iqaluit. Our options are somewhat limited, but it is a very high topic whenever we discuss with the

ownership and management of Tammaativvik of how they're going to continue to meet our growing need through the contract conditions that we have with them. It is a continual discussion.

I can use Larga Baffin in Ottawa as an example where they have over the years continuously purchased and managed larger and larger facilities to continue to meet the needs of Nunavummiut going to Ottawa medical travel. We're looking at our partners within the boarding home system along with Health Canada to see how we can continue to meet the needs of Nunavummiut.

The member brings up a very important component specifically to elders. There are limited rooms for people with mobility issues here at Tammaativvik. I guess the unfortunate reality is not only the limitation. If somebody is in that room, the boarding home management can request those people to relinquish their room for an elder, but we can't force them to at this time. I hope everyone is listening that, if they're put in that position, they have the respect for the elder that they would give up their room for an elder. I know I would, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also appreciate the fact this minister responds to questions, as I now understand it better. Yes, I understand the response, Mr. Speaker. Nonetheless, this is a critical matter.

I now ask the minister if the Tammaativvik Boarding Home is owned by a private business and that the Government of Nunavut doesn't own it. How then do you incorporate the goals that you support when this limitation exists?

Due to the importance of this issue, will this require hotel rooms? I know that funding is tight, but I wonder if the government has discussed this need with the hotel owners. Has the Department of Health contemplated purchasing another building due to the capacity issues faced by the current facility? This indeed is a very important issue, as many boarders at the facility are experiencing issues due to space limitations, particularly the sector I referenced, the elderly.

How will you develop a goal to ensure, either as the Department of Health or as this government, that you don't expend our limited funds on hotel room rentals, enriching the business owners, as is the practice today? Is this the goal of government or has the department decided on a course of action with the federal government on pursuing the funding of a larger facility? Has this been taken into consideration? I wonder if this type of idea will ever be contemplated or if this is part of your current planning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All options are on the table when we're looking at recognizing the increasing need for boarding home services here in Iqaluit specifically. To show how serious this is, in some

respects I can't answer the member's full question.

There are negotiations that are continuously ongoing right now that we're exploring options on how to increase capacity. Unfortunately I can't, through procurement and any contracting, jeopardize any contracting processes, but just to let members know, it is something that's very important that we recognize. We are working with our partners and looking at different options that we can increase capacity. We do rely a lot upon hotels.

At this time it's not in the capital plan for the Department of Health to build a new boarding home, but again, all options are being considered. That's all I can say for now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 729 – 4(3): Federal Funding to Support Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun

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

Last week the federal government announced that it has allocated \$15.8 million to support and preserve Nunavut's indigenous languages. In that announcement the federal government indicated that this funding would cover the period from 2016 to 2020, but no further details about how the funding will be spent were provided.

Can the minister provide us with a breakdown of how that \$15.8 million will be allocated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, it's true that the federal government made an announcement that funding will be allocated to Nunavut for languages.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to my colleague's question as to how that money will be allocated, I can say that my department and other agencies of the Nunavut government are addressing this issue through the *Uqausivut Plan*. We will be meeting with other departments to discuss how the money will be allocated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Section 13.1 of the *Official Languages Act* establishes the Official Languages Program Fund, which must be used to recognize and advance the equal status and rights of all Nunavut's official languages and to develop and revitalize the Inuit language.

Can the minister describe what specific expenditures were made under the Official Languages Fund during the 2016-17 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As to the question of the allocation for 2016-17 and what that money will be used for, I can't respond to that right now. However, in the Official Languages Fund report that I have, I'm sure my officials will be giving me the details of the \$15.8 million and how it will be allocated.

I would like to explain further about a part of his question. In speaking about the funding allocated for official languages within the authority of the Government of Nunavut, these are for French, Inuktitut, and the other official languages. This includes funding for the Inuit language. More work can be done for the Inuit language because of the availability of that funding. This will provide much support to our Inuit language and the fact that it must be recognized and used accordingly. There are many details.

As per my previous statement, our department will manage this funding and it will allow us to make progress forward. Our officials will be able to provide recommendations on how to effectively implement Inuktitut or in understanding that their offices must incorporate the Inuktitut language. I am just clarifying that, as the funding is available until 2020 where, under our agreement, we will be administering the funding along with other departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to find out what specific expenditures have been made under the Official Languages Fund. However, if the minister can respond to me, I would like to ask him if he can tell us what the balance of the Official Languages Fund was as of March 31, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stated earlier exactly how much funding was left as of March 31, 2017. Within this section related to official languages, which I don't have the pertinent information here in front of me, I will have to return to my colleague during our sitting after retrieving the figures, and then I can provide the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 730 – 4(3): Baffin Island Caribou Management

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

Mr. Speaker, everyone is aware that a caribou quota exists on Baffin Island, which is capped at 250 caribou for all our communities within the hunting season.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide the information on whether the quota has been reached or how many caribou

Baffin residents have harvested to date? How many caribou have been harvested out of this quota of 250 and are there still any tags available for harvesting caribou in our region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Keyootak for asking about caribou. There are currently 229 caribou that have been harvested by residents of Baffin Island. Since the quota is set at 250, it means that there are still 21 tags left. The season will end shortly and it will reset on July 1 as it runs from that date up to June 30. There are 21 tags available for harvesting up to June 30. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify which Baffin Island communities can still harvest? As the quota is almost filled, which communities have reached their quotas and which ones have not? Can the minister indicate which communities still have tags remaining to harvest caribou? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can respond to that, Mr. Speaker. As of now the communities that have completed

their caribou quota are Pond Inlet and Iqaluit. Those are the only two communities that have reached their quota.

The other communities have not completed their caribou quota yet. I would like to inform them that if they don't get all 250 caribou, then the remaining tags can be given to the communities, even to the communities that have reached their quota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for explaining that. Mr. Speaker, of the 250 caribou that the Baffin region can harvest for the whole year, some communities go through their quota really fast. I know some other communities don't live near caribou populations and it takes a long time to use up their quota. For this past year I'm sure the entire 250 caribou will be caught. If the entire 250 caribou are harvested this year, will the quota remain the same next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, every year the caribou quota has been set at 250 for the Qikiqtaaluk region. Even if they don't get all of them or get more than that, once next year comes on July 1 we will make another 250 caribou tags available.

The number of 250 will not be changed until there has been another caribou survey and if they are not decreasing in population. Right now it's going to stay at 250 tags until a further survey has been done to see if it will be increased or decreased. It will stay at 250 tags for the Qikiqtaaluk region for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Enook.

Motion 049 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to our rules, I move, seconded by the Member for Gjoa Haven, to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor to extend question period. The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Going back to the orders of the day. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Joe Enook.

Question 731 – 4(3): Pond Inlet Marine Facility

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to

direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Before I ask the question, since we started the session on Tuesday, we have heard that we have been losing family and relatives in our communities. My family from Arviat, my cousins, I think of you and I send my condolences to you.

Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on my questions from yesterday concerning the new Pond Inlet marine facility.

In her reply to one of my questions, the minister stated that... Mr. Speaker, I will be quoting from the *Hansard* of Tuesday, May 30, 2017, page 21 in English. I know that these are unedited *Hansard Blues*. I will quote, "The Nunavut Impact Review Board application will be submitted by the end of April 2017."

We all know that today's date is May 31, 2017. Can the minister confirm if the application has been submitted to NIRB and, if not, when is it expected to be submitted to NIRB? 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 his question in regard to this and reviewing what was stated. What I stated was from my briefing note, that the application will be submitted to NIRB. I can clearly state that the application was submitted

to NIRB on May 19, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate what the approximate length of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's review process is expected to be? 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. I'll state what's here in English. (interpretation ends) All permitting is intended to be completed by December 2017. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm when the final design of the project facility will be publically released? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. The first draft designs are usually seen. It

was continually amended during the negotiations. Once it has been completed, the final design will be tabled in January 2018 and they will initiate a tender near the end of January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 732 – 4(3): Tourism

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

As the minister will recall, she announced in September of last year that her department would be assuming a number of roles and responsibilities that were previously held by Nunavut Tourism. As she will also recall, this was a decision that I strongly supported.

Earlier this year the Legislative Assembly approved a budget increase for her department's Tourism and Cultural Industries Division, an increase which included funding for ten new positions. As of today, what is the status of filling these ten new positions? 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 her question. I don't have that information here with me. (interpretation ends) I will have to take that as notice. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The question has been taken as notice. I'll continue on to the next member. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Question 733 – 4(3): Options for Government of Nunavut Infrastructure

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

As the minister will recall, Nunavut Arctic College's Ukiivik residence in Iqaluit was severely damaged by fire in the year 2015. It is my understanding that this building and the adjoining federal building warehouse are now assets of the Department of Community and Government Services.

It is also my understanding that the department has been considering different options for the long-term use of both buildings, and that these options focus on converting the buildings into GN office space.

Can the minister confirm what specific options are currently being considered by the government? 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 thank the member for the question. The Ukiivik old res. and the federal building are adjoined, but we look at them and treat them as two

separate buildings and projects. Right now we are using the federal building and we are looking at maybe changing its purpose to more office space, but that is just being looked at.

The old res., we're looking at options there, whether we should demolish it, fix it up, or any other projects that could be used on it. Right now there is nothing that we have decided on for both buildings. 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 it would cost approximately \$32 million to renovate and modernize the federal building warehouse and that it would cost approximately \$42 million to renovate and modernize the old Nunavut Arctic College residence. Is my understanding correct? 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'm not sure where those figures came from. I can't confirm that they are correct or accurate because we have not decided what we are doing with either one of the buildings yet. Until you decide what you're going to do with a building and what the purpose of it will be, then you can't get a very accurate figure. No, the figures are not accurate as of right now. That's my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are your figures, the government's figures. Thank you for telling me that you have inaccurate figures.

Minister, can you confirm if the government is actively considering consolidating its headquarters workforce into a smaller number of buildings than at present, and allowing a number of its existing office space leases to expire? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to rebuttal him a little bit there, the figures may be there. I don't know what figures he's talking about, but until we decide on the purpose of a building, then we can't get an accurate figure on any building.

Yes, we are looking at options for office space because the member is right that we own and lease many different office buildings here in Iqaluit and lots of the government workers and departments are scattered. It would be more efficient to get each department in their own building, but as of right now we don't have an overall plan and that's partially to do with budgetary restraints. We are looking at all options.

The member is correct. When a lease is up, we have an option to renew the lease, build our own, or lease another building. All that stuff is always being looked at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 734 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet's Hamlet Office

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is aware, Rankin Inlet's hamlet office was recently assessed to determine the extent of the facility's deterioration. During our recent winter sitting, the minister stated that his department determined that there was in fact mould present in the facility.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the municipality has reached out to the department for support in undertaking mould remediation at the hamlet office. Can the minister tell us what actions his department will be taking to assist the Municipality of Rankin Inlet with this mould remediation project? 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 can inform the member that yes, we have been talking with the hamlet with the mould problems in the municipal office there and a company did check it out and there is mould. What we're going to do is work with the hamlet to try to remediate the mould come summer. That's the most update I have right now to help them out with mould remediation. If that can be done, then the office will still be usable. If not,

then we will look at other options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our recent winter sitting, the minister stated that his department was helping Rankin Inlet to find an alternative space for its hamlet operations while a mould remediation project is conducted. Can the minister tell us if an alternative space has been identified as of today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're working with the hamlets on that. I myself don't know right now whether they have an office picked out, but I believe that there is office space available in Rankin Inlet. While they do the mould remediation, we would help the hamlet out in finding alternative space. In the event that mould remediation does not work, we would also help them find alternative office space. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mould remediation and renovations to the current facility are short-term solutions to a long-term problem, which is that the hamlet office in Rankin Inlet is aged, deteriorated, and no longer sufficient to meet the

operational needs of the community's growing population.

Can the minister tell us when we can expect to see a project of construction of a new hamlet office in Rankin Inlet in the government's capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct in saying that the hamlet office in Rankin Inlet is old and it's small. I have met there with the council and yes, they definitely have outgrown their office space. Currently it's not in the five-year capital plan and I hope to be back here next year so that we can try to make sure we get into the community plan. Right now it's not in there.

On a side note, Rankin Inlet is getting a new arena and their old arena may be able to change its purpose for that. I'm not sure, but that's one of the options that probably could be looked at in the interim. We're open to all options. We know that we have to help out the Municipality of Rankin Inlet in terms of giving them adequate space. I can't promise or commit to anything right now, but we're there to help them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Question 735 – 4(3): Franklin Expedition

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Earlier this month the federal Minister responsible for Parks Canada responded to a question asked in the House of Commons concerning the discovery of the lost ships of the Franklin Expedition. As the minister is aware, the wrecks are located in my constituency near the community of Gjoa Haven.

In her response the federal minister indicated that Parks Canada is working with the Inuit Heritage Trust to “establish joint ownership of the artifacts.” She also made reference to the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, can our minister clarify what role the Government of Nunavut has in this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to his question regarding the discovery of the lost ships, we worked together with the federal government and other entities, especially the community of Gjoa Haven. After the discovery of the shipwrecks, we had a close working relationship with the people of Gjoa Haven.

If I understood his question correctly, he is asking what role the government has in this regard. Mr. Speaker, I can

indicate to the member that we have other plans to... . I’m not sure what that body of water near Gjoa Haven is called. Mr. Speaker, we are going to be responsible for the work on that body of water, getting the required permits, and so on. Whether we are working with the federal government or non-governmental organizations, the Nunavut government is going to take the leadership role in work related to the ships that have been found. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the community of Gjoa Haven sees great tourism potential associated with the discovery of the Franklin Expedition ships. We want the community of Gjoa Haven to benefit from this. Can the minister describe how he is working with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to assist the community in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation also has other sectors which include Nunavut Tourism and cruise ships going through Nunavut waters. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage could work together with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and their tourism sector.

As it relates to the findings of the ships, we can work together, but I'm not sure which divisions of our departments are going to be working on it. If there are any plans, I will discuss this with my ministerial colleague and our officials. I will be able to respond to your question in detail at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, there has been controversy associated with the permitting process associated with the search for the lost Franklin ships, including disputes involving the Government of Nunavut, Parks Canada, and the Arctic Research Foundation. For the record, can the minister clarify the Government of Nunavut's position on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can't respond to the question at this time because there are a lot of entities involved with this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 736 – 4(3): Departmental Vacancies

Mr. Joanasi (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I go to my question, I would like to welcome my

teacher from Nunavut Sivuniksavut, which was established in 1985. Murray Angus was my teacher and now that he is semi-retired, I would like to welcome him to the House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance, who is the Chairperson of the Financial Management Board.

The Government of Nunavut's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that approximately 1,285 positions were vacant as of March 31, 2017. This represents a vacancy rate of approximately 27 percent. Ten years ago the vacancy rate was only 20 percent. Can the minister indicate what specific factors have accounted for the increase in the vacancy rate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's pretty simple. The Government of Nunavut has been creating a lot of new jobs and of course we strive for 85 percent Inuit employment. People have to be qualified for those jobs and a lot of the jobs that are being created are highly technical.

As Mr. Joanasi is aware, in the Berger report 2006, Berger recommended education as a key issue. The Office of the Auditor General of Canada, in their 2010 report, said the same thing. We need to get our grads up. People have to get into post-secondary and qualify for the jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that there were a total of approximately 4,788 positions across the entire government as of March 31, 2017. Ten years ago the government only had 3,687 positions. This represents an increase of over 1,100 positions, or almost 30 percent, in the span of just ten years.

If the government cannot fill almost a quarter of its existing positions, why does the Financial Management Board continue to allow departments to add new positions to their organizational charts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the entire population of Nunavut lived in one or two communities - I think it is 37,000 - it would be so much easier to provide government and public services. If you take a small town down south of 37,000 people, they've got a mayor, council, let's say eight or nine people running an entire community, and maybe they've got a thousand employees. I'm just guessing.

In Nunavut, just looking at some stats, 11 percent of our population is providing services in Nunavut. We all live in 25 communities. Twenty-five communities need health centres, one or two schools, community councils, and other services. It's quite elementary, Mr. Speaker.

The more communities you have and you have 37,000 people stretched across three time zones, then you have to provide the same services in those communities but not to such extent, let's say, you have in Iqaluit. Obviously we don't have hospitals in Cambridge Bay or Kugluktuk. You have one here. You have to staff these positions. You can't have one community getting all the services and other communities getting a quarter or 20 percent of the services.

Mr. Speaker, the government is asked to provide services to Nunavummiut and MLAs encourage it. We work with the communities, we work with all the Nunavummiut, we prepare business cases, and the departments come to the Financial Management Board. We don't approve everything, but then we come in this House and we debate it. The main estimates and capital estimates get approved in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted earlier, the Government of Nunavut's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that approximately 1,285 positions were vacant as of March 31, 2017.

I understand the minister's response about education is the key. In order for the population to be employed, they need to have the skills and requirements. Also looking at the vacancy rate, it can span so many years.

I would like to test the minister to see if he can indicate approximately how many

of the vacant positions have been sitting vacant for five years or more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would love to be able to answer that question. As he can appreciate, I've got gazillions of pieces of information rolling around in my head and sometimes the answers are not immediately there. I can tell Mr. Joanasie that even though on the Inuit employment stats an indeterminate job is indicated vacant, many of those positions are filled by casuals who are not maybe providing 100 percent of the level of service in that position. They would be providing a reduced level of service. While those positions may be vacant, they're actually quite often staffed by casuals.

We put a lot of effort into it on this side, encouraging our departments to identify casuals who have been in positions for a significant length of time. It could be, let's say for example, as long as five years. I don't know if there are that many in there now. If a person is a casual in a position is doing a good job, they've had good performance appraisals, they have been learning on the job, they have gained experience, they know the job, and their boss or supervisor is satisfied with them that they're performing well, then we actively encourage them to put forward a request for a direct appointment. Direct appointments are approved by cabinet and we quite regularly do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, the time for question period has expired. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with my colleagues, I would like to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): The member would like to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? I don't hear any nays. Mr. Paul Quassa, please proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many people in Nunavut probably know this person, especially students who attended school in Ottawa. I used to work with him when he first started. I would like to recognize him. It's obvious that a lot of young people and parents in Nunavut truly appreciate him.

I would like to thank and recognize Murray Angus. He has worked with our youth for a long time and they have developed very talented young people at Nunavut Sivuniksavut. I truly appreciate him. I would like to recognize and welcome Murray Angus to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9.

Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 46 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 1, 2017, that Bill 46, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 46, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking consent to allow Bill 46 to be read for today. Are there any nays? There are none. Minister Peterson, you may proceed.

Bill 46 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 46, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*, 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. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 46 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 46, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2018-2019*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 46 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 27, 24, 25, and... (interpretation) Sorry. (interpretation ends) I'll start over. Bill 27, Bill 44, Bill 45, and Bill 46 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:45 and Committee resumed at 16:11

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

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

First of all, I would like to welcome Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. Welcome to your committee.

In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 44, 45, and 46. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to deal with Bill 44. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 44?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 44 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018 –Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. As we proceed, while Minister Peterson is at the witness table, I would like to ask him if he has witnesses that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like two officials to join me at the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to have Minister Peterson's officials at 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 and to my left is Eiryn Devereaux. Jeff is from the finance department and Eiryn is from Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome to the House, Mr. Chown and Mr. Devereaux. Let's proceed. If you have any opening comments, Minister Peterson, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members. I am here today to present Bill 44, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018*. Bill 44 is for operations and maintenance supplementary appropriations for 2017-18 totalling \$7,409,000. It consists of the following items:

- \$1,512,000 to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to cover additional compensation and benefits costs to local housing organizations resulting from the new Nunavut Employees Union agreement; and
- \$5,877,000 to the Department of Community and Government Services to cover the deposit payment of \$1,640,000 for the lease-to-own provision of the Legislative Assembly building and \$4,257,000 to cover the deposit payment for the lease-to-own provision of the nine office buildings located in decentralized communities.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are there any general comments to the opening comments? If there are no general comments, we will start with Bill 44 on page 2 in English and page 4 in Inuktitut. Please raise your hand if you have any questions.

I'll start with the Department of Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Operations. \$5,897,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$5,897,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page 2. I'm sorry, I made an error. Page 5 in Inuktitut and English. If you have any questions, please raise your hand. It reads, Department. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$1,512,000. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There is a reference to the Nunavut Employees Union agreement. My question is regarding the local housing organizations. As members, we know that some of the LHOs are managed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation and some communities have independent housing associations. Is it dealing with both levels of organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. I think he asked me that question the last time we were seeking similar funding. The answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Is that it? Let me proceed. We are on page 5. It reads, Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$1,512,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,512,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 2. It reads, Supplementary Appropriation. My apologies. The Inuktitut copy is not making any sense. I apologize. I will read the English copy instead as I have a hard time understanding the Inuktitut copy.

(interpretation ends) Summary of Appropriation Voted for the Public Service of the Government of Nunavut for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2018. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$7,409,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to your white legislation binder and refer to Bill 44. I believe everyone has a copy. Bill 44 is in your legislation binder. Can I proceed now? I believe you have it in front of you now.

I'm sorry that I don't have the Inuktitut copy, so I will read it in English. It reads, (interpretation ends) Bill 44, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): While we are on this page, please look at the Schedule on page 2. I'll read it in English. (interpretation ends) Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2018. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. \$7,409,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Let's go back to the bill. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Committee, do we agree to Bill 44 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Committee, do you agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 44 can now immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, we are done with this bill. If you have any closing remarks, I now give you the opportunity to make them. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and your committee for your questions and support on approving this bill. They were very good questions.

I would like to thank all our officials who worked on these projects and preparing the documentation for us to consider during our in-camera meetings and to be here today.

I would like to thank my two officials, Mr. Chown and Mr. Devereaux, for appearing before me as witnesses at the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 44 and would like to report that Bill 44 is now ready for third reading. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Who is the seconder? Mr. Savikataaq. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for tomorrow, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Committee Room.

Orders of the Day for June 1:

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 (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.
8. Returns to Written Questions >>*House adjourned at 16:31*
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 27
 - Bill 45
 - Bill 46
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 44
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

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

