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Monday, March 19, 2018

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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Joe Enook, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Joe Enook
(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Seniors' Advocate; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for Labour

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Education; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Joelie Kaernerck
(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Immigration

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Government House Leader; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment

Cathy Towtongie
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Charlie Audlakiak

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 19, 2018

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>House commenced at 13:33

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Joe Enook) (interpretation): Mr. Quassa, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, Premier and members. Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

We will proceed directly to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 046 – 5(1):
Nunavut's 2018 Indspire Recipient**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Igloolik, my

colleagues, and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to recognize and congratulate along with my colleagues Dr. Donna May Kimmaliardjuk, recipient of the 2018 Youth – Inuit Indspire Award in Winnipeg. Donna is the very first Inuk doctor.

Dr. Kimmaliardjuk was born in Chesterfield Inlet and is the first ever Inuk heart surgeon.

>>Applause

She is currently in her fourth year of a six-year residency program at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Kimmaliardjuk was accepted in 2014 as one of only 10 cardiac surgery residents across all of Canada. In 2016 she joined the National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS as the Inuit representative. There, she provides the council with a crucial perspective combining her medical expertise with Inuit culture.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Indspire Awards represent the highest honour the indigenous community presents to its people. The Inspire Awards celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2018 and have so far honoured 350 First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement. The awards show is a celebration of culture that highlights the diversity of indigenous peoples in Canada. This year the Indspire Awards take place on March 23 in Winnipeg.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow members to please join me in

offering our congratulations to Dr. Kimmaliardjuk, as she prepares to accept this honour. Through her hard work and dedication, she is bridging the gap for Inuit accessing medical services, and she's leading the way for the next generation of Nunavut youth.

I know I speak for us all when I say how proud we are of Dr. Kimmaliardjuk's accomplishments and how much we look forward to seeing where this incredible journey takes her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 047 – 5(1):
Rankin Inlet Healing Facility
Sewing Program**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to talk about a new cultural program for male inmates at the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility. Inmates participating in the program learn how to work with sealskin, leather, and other materials and have made winter coats, sealskin mitts, sealskin pants, sealskin hats, bullet bags, and thermos [bags].

The program is currently run by Rosemary Angugasak Sandy, a well-respected elder and a highly renowned seamstress all over the world. She recently travelled to Norway to teach individuals how to work with and prepare sealskins. She was an instructor at the Nunavut Arctic College's Fur Production Program and also helped to facilitate the Miqut Project with the

Nunavut Literacy Council.

With Rosemary's help and guidance, inmates learn culturally relevant skills in a healthy, safe environment rooted in Inuit language, traditional practices, and healing. The sewing program will work with and support the facility's land program where inmates learn to hunt wildlife and how to properly prepare the skins and the meat. These harvested skins will then be used as part of the sewing program.

Programs like these can help inmates reintegrate back into their community after they have completed their sentence, encouraging them to continue these traditional activities rather than engage in criminal behaviour.

I recently visited the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility and was encouraged to see the positive impact of these cultural programs, particularly those supported by dedicated community elders like Rosemary Sandy. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 048 – 5(1): Red
Seal-endorsed Certification in
Truck and Transport Mechanic**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Arviat. Daughter, please don't be late to school.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'll say my statement on the Red Seal-endorsed certification in truck and

transport mechanic.

In September 2016 the heavy equipment technician trade, with all three sub-trades, became a designated trade in Nunavut. This enabled Nunavut to offer apprenticeships in these trades and sub-trades, as well as issue certificates of qualification, more generally known as a journeyperson's ticket.

In November of 2017 Nunavut received authorization to offer Red Seal-endorsed certification in truck and transport mechanic, one of the sub-trades of heavy equipment technician. A journeyman who passes an interprovincial Red Seal examination has demonstrated exceptional knowledge in their trade and can work anywhere in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy that we have been able to create the opportunity for Nunavummiut to earn cross-country recognition of having achieved excellence in this new Red Seal trade in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Minister's Statement 049 – 5(1): New Funding for Early Learning and Child Care Facilities

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues, people of Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I announce today that the Department of Education is providing a

top-up O&M program contribution funding to eligible licensed child care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, this increase is a result of the three-year action plan that my staff developed for the Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement which was signed in September 2017 with the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this current fiscal year will see all eligible licensed child care facilities receive an increase of a minimum of \$1,918.80 to a maximum of \$45,494.80 depending on the number, type, and location of the spaces and facility. As long as facilities do not raise their parental fees, they will also be eligible for similar funding for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, this funding will not only assist licensed child care facilities with their operating costs; it will also assist families by keeping the parental fees from increasing.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased that we are able to provide this funding to help out the child care facilities and the families. We believe that this funding will have a positive impact by stabilizing both the funding and parental fees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Minister's Statement 050 – 5(1):
Nunavut Mining Symposium**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Good day, Nunavummiut and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the mining industry represents a key pillar of Nunavut's economic development. Our department is committed to supporting the mining industry and ensuring that Nunavummiut are able to benefit from this activity.

Mr. Speaker, soon people from across Canada will be in Iqaluit for the 21st Annual Nunavut Mining Symposium from April 9 to 12, 2018. This symposium is a terrific opportunity for people to find out the latest in Nunavut's mineral exploration and mining industry and to ensure that our communities are aware and involved in mining and exploration in our territory.

We anticipate that this year's mining symposium will continue to be one of the best attended conferences in Nunavut and we anticipate over 400 people to take part.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to welcoming the mining industry, Inuit organizations, prospectors, community members, and all other stakeholders to this important forum.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage all members of the public to come and take part during the public portion of the symposium on April 11. This is not only an opportunity to get some excellent swag, but also about the impacts of mining and exploration and give stakeholders your feedback.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 096 – 5(1):
Happy Fifth Birthday to Grandson**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Five years ago today the Speaker of this House at the time rose in the House to congratulate me on becoming a grandfather. Today I get the privilege of wishing my grandson a happy fifth birthday. Happy birthday, Jayden.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 097 – 5(1):
Kitikmeot Youth Empowerment**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The statement I will be making today applies to our youth and their future. It can assist with plans they may wish to undertake for a future career.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share some good news with my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that Inuit youth from across the Kitikmeot region will gather in Cambridge Bay next week for the 2018

Kitikmeot Youth Empowerment event.

Mr. Speaker, this gathering provides an opportunity for Kitikmeot youth to come together to discuss a number of priority areas of concern for youth. These include:

- Mental health;
- Youth centres;
- Substance abuse;
- The importance of learning about Inuit history, residential schools, and reconciliation; and
- The preservation, protection, and promotion of Inuit language and culture.

Mr. Speaker, this year's participants from Taloyoak are:

- Jody Karoo;
- David Tongelik;
- Howard Panigayak;
- Laverne Oleekatalik; and
- Crystal Mitchell.

The participants from Kugaaruk are:

- Becky Makittuq;
- Loranda Rose Audviq Qirngnuq;
- Christine Juliana Qirngnuq;
- Shantel Kanayuk Qirngnuq; and
- Pauline Illuitok.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in wishing the participants a very successful gathering. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Member's Statement 098 – 5(1): Cannabis Legislation

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to convey concerns that I have received from a number of my constituents concerning the government's pending legislation of cannabis.

I would like to read from a letter I just recently received. It states, "My family and I currently live in a public housing unit in an attached apartment row housing unit. For the last couple of years, we have had to deal with my neighbour smoking cigarettes and cannabis in their apartment. The problem is the smell comes right into our apartment, and it smells as if someone who had been smoking in our unit and it's very strong." It goes on and it gives a bit more detail, but most importantly it states that "I'm concerned about the health impacts smoking in units can have on my children and everyone else's, but my priority are my kids and other kids that are in the same situation."

Mr. Speaker, like many residents of Iqaluit, my family and I live in a multi-unit dwelling. Mr. Speaker, an issue that affects residents of such buildings is second-hand smoke.

Mr. Speaker, second-hand tobacco smoke has long been acknowledged to be a significant health risk, which is why governments across the country have acted in recent years to regulate and restrict the places in which tobacco can be smoked.

Mr. Speaker, as the father of a young baby myself, I don't want any children unnecessarily exposed to such health

risks as second-hand tobacco smoke and/or second-hand cannabis smoke.

As my colleague from Pangnirtung pointed out in her questions last week to the Minister of Health, there are a number of health risks associated with the consumption of cannabis.

Mr. Speaker, from talking with my constituents in recent months, I know that many of them have the same concerns. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that issues like this are a balancing act.

The federal government's legalization of recreational cannabis is, in all likelihood, going to be passed by Parliament within the next few months.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Lightstone, please proceed.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members.

Under this legislation, adults will be permitted to possess and consume cannabis. However, it will be up to the government and legislature to establish the detailed rules concerning such issues as where cannabis can be smoked in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet pointed out last week that the Government of Nunavut's own public consultation materials clearly acknowledge the need

to address the issue of rules concerning cannabis cultivation and consumption in rental units and public housing, as well as condominiums.

Mr. Speaker, it's my belief that the legislation which is introduced in this House needs to clearly address this issue, and I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to strike the best possible balance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, you probably realized that MLA Akoak is not here today. He is not feeling well and will be absent today. Mr. Akoak, if you are listening, we hope you get well soon.

Let us proceed. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Member's Statement 099 – 5(1):
Increasing Education
Opportunities in Baker Lake**

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hello to Baker Lake and all of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our government to do more to expand educational opportunities in the community of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Baker Lake is growing fast. It will be important to step in and provide opportunities for residents to learn more skills and find more ways to contribute to the community and society.

Mr. Speaker, the Piqusilirivvik facility operates a satellite program in Baker Lake. This program could be greatly expanded to provide greater awareness and experience in *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of establishing a university in Nunavut has been suggested and Agnico Eagle Mines have expressed their willingness to support this initiative if it should move forward. What better place to move it forward than in central Nunavut which is also the geographic centre of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues mentioned the other day how important it is for us to jump at opportunities and seize them before they pass by. Mr. Speaker, the wheels of government turn slowly, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't encourage, push, and promote opportunities that are there before us.

Mr. Speaker, this is the beginning of our term as Nunavut's Fifth Assembly and I for one would like to see us take great strides forward. Expanding educational opportunities in communities such as Baker Lake would be a good step in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Member's Statement 100 – 5(1):
Concerns with Larga Boarding
Home**

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our government to have greater oversight of the day-to-day operations at our medical boarding homes.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have brought a number of issues to my attention which I feel should have been addressed some time ago. Problems with food services in particular have been noted repeatedly with meals being served on disposable plates and cutlery because the dishwasher has been broken for months.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that our government ensures that the services which are being paid for on behalf of Nunavut residents are actually being provided. I do appreciate that the boarding homes are dealing with many clients on an ongoing basis. However, it is important that those clients are comfortable and well looked after.

I note that a range of issues with respect to the conditions at boarding homes, from safety to cleanliness, have been raised by my colleagues from across the regions.

Mr. Speaker, it is not clear whether the boarding home aspect of medical travel will be covered under the minister's ongoing review of medical travel.

I look forward to seeing the results of the review and I hope to see recommendations which will result in an improvement in the level of services and conditions at our medical boarding homes. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

**Member's Statement 101 – 5(1):
Congratulations to Rosalie
Ijjangiaq**

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today (interpretation) to congratulate Rosalie Ijjangiaq of Naujaat.

Ms. Ijjangiaq is a high school student at Tuugaalik School in Naujaat. Earlier this year Ms. Ijjangiaq was awarded the (interpretation ends) Horatio Alger Canadian Scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, Horatio Alger scholarships are awarded to high school students who have overcome significant adversity while demonstrating strong academics and a commitment to pursuing post-secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Ijjangiaq for her perseverance and commitment to furthering her education. Our youth face many challenges and obstacles when working to achieve a post-secondary education. These types of awards recognize the potential of our youth and help them to pursue their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) our former Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, received this award. Maybe Ms. Ijjangiaq will one day become a prime minister of Canada too.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rosalie Ijjangiaq on her

great accomplishment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 102 – 5(1):
Poasie Mike Recognized under
Canada 150**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, my colleagues, my relatives, and the people of Pangnirtung.

I rise this afternoon to express my pride to a constituent of mine who lives in Pangnirtung who was recognized by Dennis Patterson. He has been assisting the search and rescue for 18 years. Poasie Mike has been working with the local search and rescue group for 18 years. I rise to express my pride in him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. The last name on my list is the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Member's Statement 103 – 5(1):
Budget Reflections**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people watching the televised proceedings, Inuit, Qallunaat, and everyone.

>>Laughter

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise

today to make some observations and recommendations concerning the government's budget process.

Mr. Speaker, for those of us who are new to this place, the past two weeks has been both an experience and an education.

Mr. Speaker, as the Chairperson of the Regular Members' Caucus of the Legislative Assembly, I want to say "ma'na, koana, qujannamiik" to all of my colleagues for the way we have been working together since the new Assembly started.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we sent a strong message on Friday that the Legislative Assembly will not be taken for granted and that the government needs to respect both the letter and the spirit of its own procurement rules, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Main: Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Iqaluit-Tasiluk moved an important motion on Friday, and it is one that we will be following up on when the House reconvenes in a few weeks from now for the spring sitting.

Mr. Speaker, although our non-partisan, consensus style of government is not perfect, it does have a number of strengths. For example, as I noted last week concerning the capital budget for Nunavut Arctic College, the government did listen to a number of our concerns regarding the college's budget and made some actual changes to it. I hope to see a lot more of that approach in the weeks and years ahead, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, members have been putting ministers to the test on a daily basis. I think it's fair to say that a major theme that has emerged is the need for more work in measuring and evaluating the actual outcomes and results of the government's spending in a number of areas. Mr. Speaker, it is not enough to count the number of dollars that have gone out the door.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Main, please proceed.

Mr. Main: Thank you. Thank you, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I was speaking about measuring outcomes and results. Mr. Speaker, this information needs to be publicly tabled in the Legislative Assembly so that we, the elected representatives, can make informed, evidence-based decisions about whether or not any given item of spending should be increased, decreased, kept the same, or maybe even eliminated altogether in favour of doing other things with our limited dollars and resources.

Mr. Speaker, I'll briefly point to some examples.

I think that it's pretty safe to say that we can all agree that the cost to the government of administering its fuel tax rebate program for harvesters far outweighs the actual benefits that actual hunters are receiving. That's why the

Department of Environment, which administers the government's main suite of hunter support programs, has to take a good look at how those programs can be modified to accomplish the core goal of helping hunters with the cost of fuel.

Mr. Speaker, I'll also again take the example of the government's grants and contributions spending to illustrate and explain this point.

We know that the government has spent millions of dollars to promote economic development and diversification, Mr. Speaker. We know that a significant proportion of this funding has gone to for-profit, private businesses. We know the amounts and we know who received the money.

What we don't know is what any of this spending actually accomplished. We don't know how many jobs for Inuit and other Nunavummiut were created or sustained by this spending and we often don't know what the money was actually spent on.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I could go on for a long time in this vein, but I'm going to stop there. I'll just add as a final point that I'm looking forward to the main estimates in our upcoming budget session, and I'm very much looking forward to continuing our work with all of my colleagues to strengthen our budget process for the ultimate benefit of all of our communities and constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet,

Ms. Towtongie.

Member's Statement 104 – 5(1): Two More Elders Sent Out for Care

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the people of Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, I rise today in recalling that one of our oldest elder residents, Annie Tatty, is travelling to Ottawa by plane today. As well, one of our oldest elders named Amaruq, as I rise to make my statement, is being sent off to Gjoa Haven due to the fact that there is no elders facility in Rankin Inlet.

I want to be heard as a representative for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet. When I was elected in November and I saw the budget, I asked the Minister of Health where the plan is for an elders facility in Rankin Inlet or in Nunavut. I was told by the Minister of Health that all Members of the Legislative Assembly care and are concerned for our elders. We were advised that during the Pond Inlet meeting, the issue would be brought up in detail. I am still waiting.

Last week I rose in the House during the capital estimates review when I didn't see the funding allocated towards an elders facility, specifically for the construction of the facility. I was informed that I was not supposed to speak about that matter and that I had to cease my questions. Nonetheless, I was appreciative when our Chair, Mr. Rumbolt, permitted me to continue to voice what I felt was necessary regarding the elders facility and to fight for that.

Today I rise as an elected representative, feeling inadequate as I am not satisfied

with our current reality. The current practice of sending elders to southern facilities, to an alien landscape where the elders have no familiarity with is inappropriate. In our campaigns we all made promises to try to be proper legislators and to have a functioning government, and we advised our elders that we want to extend our deep respect to them. Here we send our elders out of the territory of Nunavut.

I am pointing this fact out to my constituents as I have come across systemic barriers in trying to fight for this facility, and I will have to search for ways to get this facility into this government's consideration.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

**Member's Statement 105 – 5(1):
Recognition of Hall Beach and
Igloolik's Volunteer Search and
Rescue**

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a moment there, I thought I was forgotten.

>> *Laughter*

I rise today to again express my pride in my fellow residents. The Hall Beach search and rescue team is very dedicated, especially when searching for any individual thought to be in dire straits or when a search is called for. They use their own equipment to conduct these searches.

I rise today to express my appreciation and to share my pride in the members of the Hall Beach SAR team. The

chairperson is Kyle Issigaitok, the vice-chairperson is George Innuksuk, and the search coordinator is Martha Gibbons. When they are out on the land searching and a shelter is required, Daniel Qaunaq sets up a shelter for them.

The team's elder, who I will continue to acknowledge when I can, is Abraham Oolalak. He is the elder of the SAR team and, as I stated previously, he is always the first searcher setting out on a search when required, yet he is an elder in comparison to my youthfulness.

Again, I urge the youth to continue to assist our elders, as they have sage advice and wisdom. Although we may not note the assistance of preparing for the future, they provide encouragement and I am able to be here today. I regret my own impatience in my earlier days, as I should have taken their advice to heart. In order for the youth to not experience my situation, when you are going hunting, please ensure you have the proper gear and equipment to face any situation.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Another matter is the recognition of the Igloolik search and rescue team. Members of the Igloolik SAR team met with their Hall Beach counterparts in our town in preparation for the upcoming spring season. It is becoming milder and the weather is becoming nicer, so please ensure your gear and equipment is adequate for what you might be faced with.

Even a day trip can lead to a hunter being stranded a vast distance away. With that being the case, I urge all

hunters to take their SPOT devices or a GPS, as well as asking your elders for advice about the best travel routes for the destination you are planning to go to and which areas have the wildlife you are hunting. Those are the types of questions you should ask.

To return to my reason for rising today, I want to reiterate the fact that the Hall Beach SAR team has one snowmobile and they have continued to request more equipment from the Department of CG&S, yet they have never received a response. I encourage this government to provide more assistance to the essential SAR teams in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's all.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Last on my list is the Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 106 – 5(1):
Kinngait Performing Arts Club**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge and appreciate the Kinngait Performing Arts Club. They will be bringing on a group from Nunavut, Jerry Cans along with The Trade-offs. They will be going to Cape Dorset. They were supposed to go there last week on March 10, but due to other reasons, they have moved the date to April 21.

They will be listening to memorable songs, singing the Mamaqtuq song, and this event will be held at the Sam Pudlat School in Cape Dorset. Anyone is welcome if they're interested in music.

They will be holding the music workshop.

I would like to acknowledge the Jerry Cans as they are very good songwriters, and also would like to thank the (interpretation ends) National Arts Centre (interpretation) along with the hamlet council of Cape Dorset. The Jerry Cans are very well known and will be singing at the Juno Awards, and we are very proud. Make sure you're watching CBC on March 25 at eight o'clock in the evening so you can hear the Mamaqtuq song. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. There are none. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeegok.

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the
Gallery**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge four people who are visiting. The first one is Parks Canada Field Unit Superintendent for Nunavut Jenna Boon and the staff who always takes care of me and our children, my wife, Carol Akeegok.

>>Applause

I would like to thank each and every one of you. A person coming from the northernmost community is my sister, Naomi Kuukaa Kuluguqtuq. We're grateful that she's here.

>> *Applause*

In addition, she is a member of our staff who is following her child here for school and lives with us as a foster daughter. She's always talking my daughter into going to school with her and I very much appreciate that. Let's give a warm welcome to Jaiden Natanine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to start with a short preamble here. When I was still a young boy, as I used to be young once too...

>> *Laughter*

...I caught my first silver jar seal pup when I was quite young and it was my very first seal which I shot in a lake. I doubt many people have ever caught their first silver jar seal pup in a lake, and it was on the tiny island of Siuraq.

This couple provided much-needed assistance and they were taking on the role of parents for me, as they were like my mother and father. My best friend Lazarie's older brother, Louie Otak, who is here, please stand up, along with his wife, Therese Otak. Let me move out of the way so they can be seen properly.

>> *Applause*

I would like to say "thank you" to them for being able to come here. I know that today is one of the last few days of the

sitting. I have invited them and they weren't able to come during our swearing-in ceremony, but I had invited them. I am very proud to say that they were able to make it here and they're our elders in our community. I am very proud and also on behalf of the members, I would like to welcome Louis Otak and his wife, Therese. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Otak and your wife, welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the members of the Parks Canada committee who were just recognized, but all of our family siblings are grateful to them.

My parents lived in Wager Bay and my mother, although it is now within the park boundaries, gave every sibling copies of pictures from the place, so I acknowledge you. From the oldest sibling to the youngest person, we are very thankful.

As well, on occasion where I have travelled to Igloolik, I used to billet, as my Inuk name is Qaatani, with Theresa Otak, who presented me with a small tea pot, and Louie Otak, I am thankful that your food is quite delicious and I will billet with you again someday down the road. Thank you so much.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Naomi Kuukaa Kuluguqtuq and Carol Akeegok, who are family members. Naomi came all the way from Grise Fiord. Mr. Speaker, it's not every day I get family in the House. Welcome. *Koana.*

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Please feel welcome in your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to acknowledge and express my pride and to voice my gratitude to my husband, who is in the gallery, Andrew Nakashuk. Please welcome him to the gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Nakashuk, welcome to our Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. We will begin with the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 123 – 5(1): Private Security Legislation

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

A couple of my colleagues over the past week and a half have brought up the issue of security guards, training, and standardization.

My first question to the minister is if she is looking at bringing forward private security legislation during this term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Hickes, for the question. As of today the Government of Nunavut does not have a Private Securities Act. My department is aware of all the companies that are starting to provide security within our communities, such as the health centres. We are currently researching and developing a policy to create a Nunavut Private Securities Act. *Koana,* Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister mentioned, we are one of the last jurisdictions in Canada to not have private security legislation. When we're looking at the private security industry, we want to make sure that they're competent and accountable. We want to make sure that they can deliver services professionally. Almost every other jurisdiction in Canada has brought forward legislation on this topic.

My next question would be: if they are analyzing the policy on private security legislation, will there be a legislative proposal coming forward to this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Hickes, yes, we can work towards developing a policy or legislation for a Private Securities Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that commitment. Mr. Speaker, in the interim I just want to confirm, as Justice has oversight on law enforcement and in some respects security personnel are law enforcement officers, do they work with Community and Government Services in coordination of contract standards for any Government of Nunavut contract services for security? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Any legislation or policies that are prepared within the Department of Justice or within any other department, when they're writing policies, we make sure that my department is involved right from the beginning. I don't have that information with me right now, but I can look into it and get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 124 – 5(1): Status of Site Remediation in Baker Lake

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

I want to follow up on the questions that I asked the minister last week concerning the cleanup of the contaminated site in Baker Lake.

In one of her responses to me, the minister indicated that a "final report was prepared and given to the QEC." Would the minister commit to providing a copy of this report to both the Municipal Council of Baker Lake and me as the community's MLA? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can commit yes, Mr. Mikkungwak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her commitment. In one of her responses to me, the minister indicated that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is "willing to work with the Municipality of Baker Lake to remediate the rest of the site." Mr.

Speaker, I will be pleased to convey this good news to the municipality when I return to the community next week. I will encourage municipal officials to contact their Qulliq Energy Corporation counterparts to arrange a meeting. Mr. Speaker, this shouldn't be too difficult given that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's headquarters is located in Baker Lake.

The minister indicated that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has already spent \$1.68 million to date on this cleanup. Can she clarify what the cost would be to remediate the rest of the site? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) To remediate the whole site itself, it would cost approximately \$10 million. The QEC does not have those kinds of funds, but like I said in my previous statement, the contaminated site was prior to the creation of Nunavut and the Government of Canada is responsible for those sites to be remediated. Again, like I said, we are willing to work with the Municipality of Baker Lake to remediate the existing contaminated area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in my questions last week, the question of whether the federal government or the territorial government should be responsible for these cleanup costs remains unresolved.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Qulliq Energy Corporation's long-standing position that the contamination is attributable to events that took place when the site was under federal jurisdiction. Will the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation commit to working with the Minister of Justice to explore and clarify the legal options that may be open to us in this regard? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I can commit as Minister of the QEC and Minister of Justice that we will work together to resolve the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 125 – 5(1): Educational Leave Policy

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the *Public Service Act*.

Prior year's Public Service Annual Report included information on how many employees were taking advantage of the government's generous Education Leave Policy. Unfortunately the 2016-17 *Public Service Annual Report* did not include that information. Would the minister be willing to provide the Assembly with that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems the member would like the annual reports to include the information and the information should be contained in the next report. These annual reports are released annually. With respect to the information that the member stated was missing, I will look into the report to see if it is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I would just like to ask if the minister would be willing to provide the Assembly with the information on the number of employees that took advantage of the Education Leave Policy in the prior fiscal year, 2016-17. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quickly trying to find the pertinent information in the 2016-17 annual report, but I can't seem to find it. The member is asking about details that I don't have, so I will take his question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) The question has been taken as notice. (interpretation) I will proceed. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Question 126 – 5(1): Status of Pangnirtung's Old Health Centre

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

(interpretation) As the minister is aware, I have asked this question related to Pangnirtung's previous health centre, probably now known locally as the old health centre, which is no longer used in any capacity upon the opening of the new health centre.

The old health centre has not been in use for quite some time. Nonetheless, all of the windows are boarded up. My question to the minister is whether the department has any plans for this building and if he knows his department's plans for this old health centre's future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. When old surplus facilities that were owned by the government are not being used anymore by the department responsible, we ask other government departments whether they have any uses for it or not. The old health centre was built in 1975 and Pangnirtung went through that process.

The Department of Health had no more use for it. We looked into which department has any use for it and we haven't heard back from any of them.

Using the government standard practice, we are now preparing whether the hamlet has any use for it. That's where we are right now. If they don't want the facility, then we will go to the next step of whether a non-profit organization has any use for it. This is the process we use for surplus government facilities. That's where we stand right now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand correctly, now the community has been asked if they want to take it over. What's going on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not heard from government departments if they want to take it over or not. Now we are waiting to see if the municipal government is interested in taking over the building. That's where we're at right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for answering the question. I don't know whether the hamlet would be interested in taking over that building. If the hamlet does not want to take it over, what generally happens after that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking questions about that. There are more than four steps that we take. Using the old health centre in Pangnirtung as an example, if the health department no longer requires it, we ask the other government departments if they are interested in taking it over.

They were not interested and so we're now going to see if the hamlet is interested in it. If they're not interested, we will ask if there are any local non-profit organizations that are interested in taking that building over. If no non-profit organizations are interested, then it will be open for anybody to try to get it. That's the process that we normally follow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik...Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Question 127 – 5(1): Family Services Client Travel Policy

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My name is Natsiq.

>> *Laughter*

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

First of all, I would like to say (interpretation) to my constituents, I keep forgetting to say "good afternoon." I have been here for a while now and I haven't said "good afternoon," so I say "good afternoon." We will be home soon

and that's great.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is an unfortunate reality that some of our more vulnerable Nunavut residents must travel south to receive care, in a strange environment, far away from their home and family. I am sure you will agree that getting a visit from a family member makes all the difference in the world to these individuals.

The *Family Services Client Travel Policy* published on the government website is dated June 2013 and is effective to March 31, 2018.

I was given to understand that the former Minister of Family Services had committed to making changes to the *Family Services Client Travel Policy*.

Can the minister clarify whether there have been any revisions to his department's Client Travel Policy since 2013 and, if not, will he be making any changes after March 31 of this year?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't comment on any other commitments that may or may not have been said by the previous minister of the day, but I can say that this policy is in effect 'til the end of March 2018 and, like normal policies, will stay in effect until the new one is in place.

I have not heard of any rumblings from within the department to do any changes to this policy. If there needs to be a change, we can look at that, but we're

not going to change a policy just for the sake of changing because it has a sunset clause. We would look at the policy and just see if there has to be any changes that would be beneficial to both the people that take advantage of this travel policy and for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. The *Family Services Client Travel Policy's* Client Travel Benefits Guideline currently states that an adult client of Family Services who is in residential care is eligible to receive a visit from two family members or guardians per fiscal year. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm whether or not this policy has been revised to permit two visits from two family members or guardians per fiscal year?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding of this policy is... . Instead of going for a long-winded talk about it, Family Services will pay for two return trips per year to go visit a family member or someone that's in care. It could be an adult or it could be a child that's in care out of the territory or within the territory that's not within their community. It will be two return trips, whether it can be two people going at the same time or one person going at two different times. To make it very simple, two return trips per year per person who is in out-of-community care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to considering changing his department's Client Travel Policy to increase the visit allocation for adult clients in residential care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This policy is expiring soon and this policy would be looked at, but I can't commit to anything right off the bat without looking at the policy. The whole policy itself probably will be looked into because a lot of the travel that Family Services paid for are Health clients. Therefore we have to work with Health and make sure that this policy is adhered to and that we're running it prudently. I can't commit to anything, but since this travel policy is expiring soon, I'm sure everything that is in this policy will be looked at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 128 – 5(1): Contacting the Office of Patient Relations

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

Mr. Speaker, from time to time, constituents come to my office in the community to ask for help in getting health issues resolved. As the minister

often tells us and earlier this week she even provided a phone number, Nunavummiut can contact the Office of Patient Relations with their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, language and even dialect is sometimes a barrier over the phone. Can the minister tell this House what other ways the Office of Patient Relations can be contacted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I understand your concern and yes, we usually like to try to encourage the toll-free number so you can get somebody right away. I don't have it right here right now, but there's an email address as well and perhaps even a fax number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I'm not sure if she answered the question or not, so I will ask this question.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Information and Privacy Commissioner has raised a number of concerns about privacy and confidentiality and I appreciate that we have to be very careful that personal health information does not get into the wrong hands.

The Office of Patient Relations has a form that can be filled out explaining a complaint or concern. However, it is not possible for people to submit that form

by fax. Not everyone has a computer. They can't scan the form or send an email.

Can the minister explain why it is not possible to contact the Office of Patient Relations by fax? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Good question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question, that's true. I think because it's harder and harder to find fax machines, maybe going forward, we tend to use more electronic type of devices such as email or there are websites.

I'm just looking at my briefing note here. There's a government website that can be reached and it is www.patientrelations.gov.nu.ca. I'm sure that we have health centres in every community. If there's a form that you wanted to fax in, I'm sure the health centres could be used for that. We also have GLO offices in every community. I'm pretty sure that somebody in the community would have a fax that they could send it to our headquarters here. If we don't have a fax number at the Office of Patient Relations, it's something I can find out and get back to the member on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Question 129 – 5(1): Income Assistance Policies

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on questions asked by the Member for Kugluktuk regarding income assistance policies.

The minister has indicated that when income assistance clients go from workplace to workplace with a job search form, this is a "productive choice."

Can the minister explain how doing a job search can be considered a "productive choice" when there are no jobs to be had? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On productive choices and looking for jobs, in my opinion I would say that if there are no jobs available at all, then it would be useless, but sometimes there are short-term jobs available like casual jobs. Maybe if that person on the right day, on the same day when that casual job is available came in, then the person could get a job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, March 16, the minister indicated that completing a job search form is one of eight categories of "productive choices" that

an income assistance client can make. Can the minister describe what other types of “productive choice” options are available to income assistance clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’ll say the eight productive choices. (interpretation ends) Traditional activities (interpretation) like hunting, sewing, or land activities is one; the other one is (interpretation ends) wage employment, (interpretation) finding a job that you can make money out of; (interpretation ends) education and training, (interpretation) such as taking Nunavut Arctic College work training programs; (interpretation ends) No. 4, parenting or care of an adult family member, (interpretation) taking care of your relatives; No. 5... . I’m sorry. There are six productive choices. (interpretation ends) Counselling or treatment (interpretation) is if that person needs extra help. The last one is (interpretation ends) volunteer community service, (interpretation) helping out around the town without pay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Income support is a policy of the Government of Nunavut. If it was legislation, it would be impossible to make amendments to the policy.

I have seen young people who want you to sign, even though there are no job

opportunities. They come every month about productive choices and sometimes they get embarrassed to ask for a job and the individual is feeling down.

Can the minister clearly describe what kinds of Nunavut-specific policies they have? Can you come up with a policy for that in the smaller communities? We are following policies that are not geared for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy is just for Nunavut. It can’t be used outside the territory.

In regard to income assistance, there was a study and the policy has been changed. Anyone who is eligible for income support can request and they cannot claw back your (interpretation ends) child tax benefits. (interpretation) After the review, some changes have been made to the Income Support Program.

We were going to look at the job search form again. It will be impossible to do a job search when there is no employment opportunity in the community. They have to choose a productive choice, so we will look at the productive choices. We are aware of that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Question 130 – 5(1): Mine Training

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to ask my questions to the Minister of Economic

Development and Transportation.

I strongly support responsible mining activities that balance the need to create jobs and business opportunity with the need to protect our environment.

My questions today will focus on the issue of job training.

The current 2017-18 budget for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation includes a \$200,000 Nunavut Mine Training Fund. Can the minister indicate what projects her department has spent this funding on during the current 2017-18 fiscal year? Mr. Speaker, I hope that makes sense. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. In regard to mining training, although not all of them have been reported... (interpretation ends) The department continues to work with the Department of Family Services, Nunavut Arctic College, Government of Canada, minerals industry, and Inuit organizations on a number of programs designed to prepare Nunavummiut for all opportunities in the mineral resource industries. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. Can the minister

indicate if her department will be requesting an increase or decrease in this budget for the upcoming 2018-19 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot respond to that question at this time, but perhaps I can get back to the member's question for the \$200,000 as to how the funding was utilized. For (interpretation ends) the Kitikmeot Corporation drillers' assistant training, (interpretation) \$61,000 was used; for the (interpretation ends) Qikiqtani Inuit Association for financial literacy, \$60,000; (interpretation) as well as for the Hamlet of Arviat for the (interpretation ends) work readiness program and class 3 airbrakes for \$78,000. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for elaborating on my question. Earlier in our sitting, I tabled a copy of my recent letter to the president of North Arrow Minerals concerning the Mel Diamond Project in North Baffin. They will be drilling near Hall Beach this spring.

Further, with regard to the information I tabled about the proposed work to be undertaken near our community, I wonder if the minister can indicate how her department is working with not only North Arrow Minerals but all mining companies to identify job training

opportunities for Inuit near my home community or for Inuit in Quttiktuq.

I believe these opportunities can provide beneficial employment for people due to this reasoning and to add further to this, Hall Beach is a smaller community and the project won't be buying supplies from the community. However, some people have been hired to work on these projects, for which I thank them. As you stated earlier, you will be working to support mining companies.

What I am trying to ask about is if these types of activities funded through the allocations the minister mentioned. To use this example, the Mary River project is in the Baffin region, Kivalliq has gold mines opening, and in the Kitikmeot, I think the future mine is also for gold. Will all of the projects have adjacent training courses?

To use myself as an example, as I am an Inuk and if I wanted to training to get a more senior position, then what kind of training could be provided so that I could succeed? What type of assistance can the Department of Economic Development offer for prospective workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your good questions. (interpretation ends) Economic Development (interpretation) is not alone in this. It's interdepartmental through (interpretation ends) education, mining training, and trades. I think it's also important to acknowledge that mines are at different times and we look

at all those as a department. There's active and advanced development under construction. You take all those into consideration while working with the different departments. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Question 131 – 5(1): Support for Health Centre Staff

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to ask questions to the Minister of Health.

Let me start by providing some background to my question, as this question applies to numerous communities and not just to my particular community. I believe it applies everywhere in Nunavut as it pops up in various communities and it relates to our nursing staff as well as other workers in our local health centres.

We are all aware that frontline health professionals are often tasked with heavy workloads. This chronically heavy workload results from having too many duties, or to say it in English, a full (interpretation ends) workload. (interpretation) When workloads are too heavy, one nurse sometimes has to undertake these responsibilities, with part of the reason being lack of nursing staff. When nurses are subject to extra work due to the lack of staff, it can lead to staff burnout, as a lack of replacement nurses results in more work for the remaining nurses who must still complete their tasks.

It seems quite obvious that staff

shortages leads to some nurses being overworked. It would appear to be quite evident in this case, and hopefully I am being understandable as I am speaking my dialect and I hope my colleagues comprehend my concerns here. Perhaps I will reiterate it in English. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it appears that there is an increasingly cyclical pattern with staff shortages contributing to an ever-increasing workload and burnout, and so on.

My first question for the minister is: can the minister tell this House what steps her department has taken to provide additional support and resources, particularly to the health centre staff in communities which suffer from chronic workloads and burnout? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that really important question. I think the issue of staffing regarding health centres and nursing is a very important one. It's something that we have always been working very hard as a department to ensure that we can have enough staff at all health centres as much as possible. That doesn't always happen.

I am aware of circumstances where yes, nurses feel very tired and very burnt out. The department does what it can when we come across such situations. We just had that situation in one of the communities and the department then sent additional nurses where we could. You've got to look at where can be spare a nurse or two and then once that is determined, they try to send that nurse to

that community where maybe the workload is more than usual.

It can be any kind of circumstances going on. Maybe somebody has gone on leave, and then the community perhaps came down with a lot of cases of flu or something, those kinds of impacts. What we try to do is we look at where else can we send some nurses from one area to another. We're always trying to recruit nurses. We want to make sure that we keep the numbers up, that we have enough nurses to deliver the health care service in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. I think we share this concern. In reviewing the department's most recent staffing statistics, I'll use the communities I represent as example. It is clear that vacancy rates remain unacceptably high in some health centres. According to the latest statistics, Whale Cove has a 70 percent vacancy rate; Arviat, 44 percent vacancy rate.

I understand that this is a challenging issue and that it's very complicated. I would like to ask the minister if the minister could describe some of the challenges her department faces in providing additional and adequate staff in these communities which face consistently heavy workloads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. From what I understand, from speaking about this problem with my department, the problem isn't so much that we can't hire the staff. We have a lot of nurses that want that kind of experience, especially if they had never been to the north before. As you know, we support the Nunavut Arctic College Nursing Program, so we support that as well. We provide great incentives. Once you become a nurse, you get like a \$5,000 signing bonus and then after so many months, you get another financial incentive.

Our problem is once the 30 months is done, we can't keep our nurses. They leave. They've had the experience and maybe the novelty has worn off, but it's very stressful being a nurse in the community. You have to look at everything when somebody comes into a community and what kind of support they have. This is something the department has been working very hard in trying to address. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. I'll try to rephrase it. Mr. Speaker, we know that there are issues in some of these communities where there are chronically heavy workloads and chronically short-staffed crews of health care professionals. I would like to understand specifically what is being done to address the issue in those communities specifically. What is being done? What is being considered in terms of making sure that our nurses and other health care staff are getting the support they need from the department? Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know you want the specifics, but I perhaps don't have an exhaustive list of what's being done because that's operational. I wouldn't know all of that, but I do know that my department is in contact with our health care centres. If there's a problem, the health care centre or the nurse in charge will let my department know, "We have a problem here. We're on, let's say, an emergency basis only where people can't make regular appointments" because maybe the workload is too much or too many nurses have gone away. Whatever the reason is, there is that ongoing communication.

The department, like I said before, is trying to fill all the positions that we can. It's difficult to do that because we're in competition with the rest of Canada. That's one thing that they're trying to do. I know that they work with an agency as well to try to hire northern nurses, people who have had experience working in the north, not so much always the Arctic but let's say northern Manitoba.

There are different areas that we're trying to address this. I know that the Department of Health is very conscious of what a lot of our nurses go through and are trying to help in whatever way they can. That is not an easy thing. It's not something we can solve overnight. It's something we all have to keep working on and if you have any ideas, let me know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 132 – 5(1): Insurance Policy on Government Assets

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next set of questions is directed at the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, as we're all aware, in all the communities across the territory, the government owns a number of different pieces of infrastructure. There are airport terminals, health centres, schools, office buildings, and etcetera. My question to the minister is: for insurance purposes, are all those pieces of infrastructure lumped together in one policy or are they separated by need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Our insurance is broken into different stages and it all depends on exactly which property it is. Each of our property has slightly different policies, and some don't even have policies. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noticed recently in the news, there was an attempt by somebody in one of our communities to start a fire again at one of our community's schools.

Mr. Speaker, as we learned in the last Assembly through two instances, one

school was being underinsured. I know the Department of Finance has taken measures to make sure that our infrastructure is insured for the appropriate amount. We also learned that our deductible on schools, as an example, is \$10 million.

What are the implications with our insurance provider if another school goes up in flames, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Our current insurance premium has jumped from \$10 million to \$20 million for our schools in result of the fires that have taken place. We continue to advocate that through our Department of Education and through all of us to try to encourage people to prevent that. Those are very valuable properties that sadly there have been attempts of them being burned down.

We need to try to communicate and ensure that we show that we are doing our diligence through our security systems and through various... . We need to prove that we are doing better and we are trying to do better because the insurance deductible is rising and rising to a point where we have to insure it ourselves. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that information and it scares me when we talk about having insurance premiums of half or more of the value of

a building. I did ask what would happen if another school went up. We have a \$20 million deductible. If another school does burn down, when are we uninsurable? Is it one school, two schools, or ten schools? Where does it become economically viable or not viable, an economic hardship for us to be uninsurable and have to foot the bill on any future replacements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I hope that we will continue to be insurable. The way we attract our insurance companies is through a competitive process of trying to find out which of the property insurers are available for us. Each time they do, they come up with a number. This recent one of \$20 million is a result of schools being burnt down. For the rest of our other buildings, the deductible is at \$1 million. There are different varieties of this.

I can't say before how many schools are burnt that we will be uninsurable. I hope that under our watch that we don't see another school being burnt. I applaud the questions and applaud our efforts to try to do this. Together, as all members, we need to continue to advocate that these are to educate our children and educate the public.

I think, not only for schools but even for health centres, those are very valuable properties that we try to run our services. Any property damage causes a lot of grief to people that we serve. I want to continue advocating that our buildings

are ours. As our Speaker continues to remind us, this is everybody's House. We need to remind all of our students and all of the public that schools, health centres, and garages are all of the public's buildings and they are there to serve the public. I applaud and thank for questioning this and raising this in this House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 133 – 5(1): Increasing Educational Opportunities in Baker Lake

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement I noted that we, as the Fifth Assembly of Nunavut, have a new opportunity to push our territory towards a bright future.

Can the minister tell this House whether he would be willing to reopen the consideration of establishing a university in Nunavut in partnership with the private sector and others? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Baker Lake for asking that question. Nunavut Arctic College drafted a request for proposals, asking

different universities outside of Nunavut on ways to collaborate on various courses that we could jointly offer.

We started to develop a plan, although we were made aware that different bodies, for example, Agnico Eagle placed funds aside specifically for the creation of a university in Nunavut. This work is something we would like to continue to pursue. However, we have tried to draft up an agreement with some universities outside of Nunavut on developing a collaborative approach towards this goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly feel that we must invest in expanding educational opportunities from *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* such as that delivered by the Piqqusilirivvik program to higher academics such as the kind of education that would be delivered in a university setting. Of course I feel that Baker Lake would be the perfect location for such an expansion.

Can the minister clarify whether he and his officials have been in discussion with the Board of Governors of Nunavut Arctic College to develop a vision of how greater opportunities for higher education can be delivered in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut Arctic

College shares that desire to provide greater opportunities for Nunavummiut to be able to receive a university degree in their home territory. What we have started noting is that emergence of online distance learning courses, as that is another avenue to research.

With respect to the matter the member referred to regarding Piqqusilirivvik and how more programming could be disseminated to the satellite communities, it is another idea which we are contemplating. The board of governors of Arctic College will be involved in this initiative along with my officials. Specifically the Arctic College president and vice-president will be developing a plan to move towards this goal that can provide us momentum forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the previous government accepted a recommendation not to pursue the option of a Nunavut university at that time. Will the minister commit to revisiting this concept and reporting back to the House on his findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for his question. That option about building a university in Nunavut, people have different ideas about it. Like I said, Agnico Eagle has earmarked \$5 million towards a new facility if there is a will to do that. I think it's still an ongoing

discussion. Within this mandate over the next four years, I'm not sure if that is the route we want to take given that we just completed a fairly extensive feasibility study which we're going to take into consideration and proceed as we need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Mr. Main.

Motion 015 – 5(1): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Therefore question period will be extended for an additional 30 minutes starting now.

Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Question 134 – 5(1): Grants and Contributions Programs

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask my question to the Minister of Environment, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask about the Department of Environment's hunting programs and I would like information on how they

actually benefit our hunters. Looking at the government's main estimates for 2017-18, those programs are in three parts.

Let me speak in English so that I'm clear. (interpretation ends) There are three grants under the Department of Environment that are administered for disaster compensation, wildlife damage compensation, and finally the Fur Pricing Program. The budgeted amount for these grants is \$150,000 for the current fiscal year. First of all, I wonder if the minister could explain how the department evaluates the effectiveness of these programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and for that question. I can certainly talk about our Fur Assessment and Advance Program. I think this is one of the very important ones for harvesters obviously because they get funding before they actually go to the auction house, so they're not waiting for their income. I know that that happens at least, I think it's three times a year. I don't have the details of that yet, but I know they just had a fur harvesters' auction beginning of March. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for bringing up particularly the fur markets.

Mr. Speaker, information provided in this House in years past is very interesting to me and perhaps other harvesters in Nunavut. In 2011 the Department of Environment stated that the value of pelts auctioned off to the Fur Harvesters Auction was around \$800,000. In 2012 it was around \$1.1 million and in 2013 it was \$1.04 million.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could give us an update in terms of how the fur markets are proceeding this year in terms of the latest information that she has available. It could be this year or it could be last year. I'm interested in the health and the economic viability or state of the fur markets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I, too, have the same information you just read off actually. I cannot say where they're at because I don't have the results of the Fur Harvesters Auction recently. I can tell you that my hope is after the Northern Lights, it was doubled in sales when it comes to the industry and I hope that that will be an indication of what's coming by way of the Fur Harvesters Auction. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. This is my final question on this, Mr. Speaker. Can the Department of Environment make considerations to get

more cash into the hands of our hunters to help them out? We know who the fox trappers and sealskin producers are. I think that the money that is used within a year is too small, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's just too small. Can the minister agree with me on this fact? Can the minister check into this in the coming months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with you. (interpretation ends) I look forward to tabling one day to increase that. You will support it in this House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Question 135 – 5(1): Compensation Program for Hunters and Trappers

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

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware in Nunavut that our hunters' equipment gets damaged, especially by polar bears. Their shacks get broken up and their important property like snowmobiles is damaged.

Mr. Speaker, there is a compensation program for damaged equipment, but it's very hard to access that money. Has the funding for wildlife damage

compensation programs been depleted this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. I didn't hear the whole question. Can he repeat the question, please? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Please repeat your question, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our properties like snowmobiles and shacks get damaged, especially by polar bears, when we're not there. We all know that there are compensation programs for wildlife damage to property. My question was: has the budget for damage compensation been depleted this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for clarifying the question. Minister of Environment, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I now understand the question, but unfortunately I cannot respond to the question right now. I can give him a written response at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister said that she would respond after she gets the

information. Can she break it down between the Baffin region, the Kivalliq region, and the Kitikmeot region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can provide a breakdown of the list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 136 – 5(1): Child Care and Early Learning Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister of Education.

In his minister's statement this afternoon he stated that all eligible licensed child care facilities will receive an increase and he gave a range of numbers dependent on the number, type, and location of the spaces. Is there an overall budget associated within this range? What is the total amount that is being provided to our licensed child care facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for his question. Cabinet approved the signing of a multilateral framework for this agreement. It's a three-year agreement and over the three years I think it's broken down by four different

categories. If you want specific statistics operations-wise, O&M would be overall \$1.1 million for each year. It's broken down into that. That's kind of the overall numbers I have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for those details. Mr. Speaker, when I'm looking at the daycare regulations for Nunavut, *A manual for early childhood programs*, section 17 in the staffing speaks to "For all staff involved in the delivery of the daily program, it is recommended to include training as one of the expectations."

Mr. Speaker, I know there are a number of different programs offered within the Early Childhood Division as well as Nunavut Arctic College. How is success measured? How is this tracked from licensed daycare facilities across the territory to make sure that training is encouraged for day-to-day staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Hickes, again. Training is one part of this agreement over the three years. That's one of the other components outside of the \$1.1 million for operations costs. We want to get more and more certified ECE workers that might already be working in a daycare facility. It's an area that we want to continue to boost. Training and ongoing training on the job are some

things that we look forward to over the three years and beyond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I encourage the minister to keep following up with that information.

Mr. Speaker, I have said it in the House before that early childhood educators within our daycare system and our education system overall are a very key component in making sure that as our child education develops, it's a very key component to start off with a strong start.

When we're looking at workers in our licensed daycare facilities and the training that's available, I'm always encouraged to hear from daycare workers when training is available. It makes them feel more valued. It makes them feel more knowledgeable and more empowered.

One of the concerns I also hear, though, is the wage levels for people working in our licensed daycare facilities. Mr. Speaker, the turnover, as I'm sure all members are aware, is quite high. When you're trying to provide a consistent educational environment for our children before they get into the actual K to 12 system, it is imperative that there be stability at that level.

Is one of the conditions of this funding to be able to subsidize licensed daycare facilities for salaries to improve the option of a career path for our daycare workers, not a placeholder but a career path? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with Mr. Hickey. (interpretation ends) I totally agree in that we want to prepare our children best for a successful start in life prior to entering the school. I think part of that is we need to do our best to support our child care workers.

We don't want parents to see an increase in their parental fees. I'm hoping that we can work something out and that this agreement will mean that our child care workers are getting the value that they so deserve. I want to continuously work towards having that in our child care facilities across the north and across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Question 137 – 5(1): Inuit Content Requirements for Government Contracts

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, March 16, I was speaking with the Minister of Community and Government Services. I wanted to get clarification in regard to the number of Inuit labour content. Mr. Speaker, it seems like the minister and I was in agreement and that he was in support of increasing the percentage of Inuit labour content.

The 20 percent is being used for the Qikiqtaaluk Correctional Healing Centre and also for marine infrastructure in Iqaluit and Pond Inlet. If I understood correctly, the Inuit labour content is at

15 percent and 20 percent. Can the minister report to us how much they will be increasing the Inuit labour content for this tender, if the department is allowed to increase that figure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the member understands how it should be tendered through the department. The department helps the client departments. When it comes to marine infrastructure, Economic Development and Transportation is responsible. If we're talking about correctional facilities, we work with the Department of Justice. We work with the client department to make sure that the contract is being followed.

We work with the client department and they figure out what the Inuit labour content it should be. They try not to go over that level and we try to work with the "achievable" with the clients departments. I cannot tell you at this time and, as the tender has already been released to the public, I believe it would be impossible to make that change now, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me continue my line of questioning. Now, if it reached the point of being unable to make changes to the work being tendered, are there any other ways to make positions available to Inuit? Is the Department of CGS able to work on this type of initiative?

I am asking about this issue because we have to treat non-Nunavut residents and Inuit workers from other communities equally, Mr. Speaker. I am referring to non-Nunavut residents who travel to Nunavut to work. They are provided accommodation and meals. On the other hand, local workers are not provided these types of benefits. I wonder if there are benefits provided to Nunavut workers and I would like to know if there are initiatives like that. I hope I am being understandable here, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Maybe I'll rephrase that. Can the minister tell the House what the situation is for labourers from other communities inside Nunavut when it comes to seeking employment with a major construction project and are the workers from inside of Nunavut eligible for the same employer benefits that are received by labourers from outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for rephrasing your question. Mr. Speaker, in the NNI Policy, the requirement for contract authority assesses the following factors in setting the Inuit labour requirement:

- The nature of skills required for work;
- The Inuit labour available with the required skills; and
- Other projects in the community that might impact the amount of Inuit labour force available.

Mr. Speaker, we encourage all contractors to first hire local, hire regional, and hire Nunavut before

seeking employers elsewhere. That is encouraged and asked of all of the people who come into Nunavut to seek employers. We always encourage that and our client departments, Mr. Speaker. We work very closely with our client departments in setting these "achievable." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for his response. As a final question I'll ask for a commitment from the minister. Can the minister commit to working with the client departments involved, specifically with these major construction projects that we just previously mentioned? Can the minister commit to working with these client departments to make sure the jobs are posted and that Inuit have a chance to apply on construction jobs from outside of a single community? He mentioned regional hiring and Nunavut hiring. Can the minister commit to making sure that this is taken into consideration by the construction firms which eventually will win the contracts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the Nunavut government as a whole encourages people who are out there looking for employers to first look within Nunavut to hire. That's the way we have always gone and that's the way we will continue to go, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Moving on with the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. 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. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 029 – 5(1):
Correspondence and 2018 Annual
Report from North Arrow
Minerals Re: Mel Diamond
Project**

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I tabled a copy of my recent correspondence with the president of North Arrow Minerals outlining my concerns about their proposed drilling project near my home community of Hall Beach. As I stated earlier today, I will voice my support for these mining companies on behalf of my constituents in Amittuq, as there are not many employment opportunities available in our area.

Today I am quite pleased to table the response from the president of North Arrow Minerals as he appended the company's 2018 annual report on their plans to develop their project. I believe this project can provide tangible benefits and economic opportunities to residents in my constituency. I will keep returning to this matter on occasion. As Hall Beach is a smaller community, we lack employment opportunities in our community.

Without further ado, I am tabling the response from the president of North Arrow Minerals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

**Tabled Document 030 – 5(1):
Correspondence from the
Municipality of Naujaat Re: Four-
bay Garage**

**Tabled Document 031 – 5(1):
Correspondence from the
Municipality of Naujaat Re:
Extension of Runway in Naujaat**

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two pieces of correspondence from the Municipality of Naujaat addressed to the government regarding critical infrastructure needs in the community.

The hamlet is requesting a four-bay garage. The community is growing quite rapidly and the number of vehicles has surpassed their garage space. Further, the garage that houses the mechanics for the hamlet is quite antiquated and they are quickly running out of space.

The other letter outlines the local airstrip and of the need to add a modest extension to their runway, which would provide a large benefit to the community.

The Hamlet of Naujaat has sent these letters to our government. I strongly encourage our government to review these pieces of correspondence and give them full consideration, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Tabled Document 032 – 5(1): Family Services Client Travel Policy

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Client Travel Policy from the Department of Family Services. Included are the application forms and policy guidelines regarding the Client Travel Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have two documents to table.

Tabled Document 033 – 5(1): Elections under the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund

Tabled Document 034 – 5(1): Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Thank you, my colleagues. (interpretation ends) I have two documents to table today.

The first document is a list of elections under the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

The second document is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. (interpretation) Thank you.

Moving on with the orders of the day. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second

Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 2, 3, and 4 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 10 – 5(1), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:54 and Committee resumed at 16:18*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2, 3, and 4. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence the review of Bill 2, followed by the review of Bill 3 and Bill 4 and the supporting budget documents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Is the committee in agreement that we first start with Bill 2? Again, do we agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 02 – Interim Appropriation
(Operations & Maintenance) Act,
April 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018 –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. You can find Bill 2 in your legislative white binder that's down below your seats.

To continue, I would now like to ask Mr. Akeeagok if you have any witnesses that you would like to appear at the witness table with you. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Yes, with your permission, I would like officials with me at the table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to have the witnesses appear before the committee?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Mr. Akeeagok, if you could introduce your witnesses and please proceed on into your opening comments. Thank you.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is my Deputy Minister, Jeff Chown. On my left is my Assistant Deputy Minister, Dan Carlson.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 2, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019*. Through this bill, our government is seeking legal authority to spend up to \$491,804,000 between April

1, 2018 and June 30, 2018.

Mr. Chairman, at this time of year the Minister of Finance would normally seek funding for a full fiscal year. However, our Fifth Assembly only recently sat together to develop our shared mandate and priorities. Because we would like our 2018-19 budget to reflect our shared plans and goals, I plan to table the full 2018-19 main estimates for the Assembly's consideration during the upcoming spring session in May and June.

(interpretation ends) Until then we will require an interim appropriation so that our departments can continue to deliver the basic programs and services Nunavummiut rely on for the next few months. This approach follows the budgeting process used in the year after the elections.

Mr. Chairman, all departments and territorial corporations have had an opportunity to review the proposed interim amounts. Our calculations are based on departments' spending patterns and cash flows needed over the last four years. We are satisfied the amounts we are seeking are enough to cover operations until the Assembly has had an opportunity to review and pass the full year's budget.

(interpretation) In particular Bill 2 seeks the following appropriations:

- \$8.62 million to the Office of the Legislative Assembly;
- \$11.66 million to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs;

- \$29.08 million to the Department of Finance;
- \$49.1 million to the Department of Family Services;
- \$32.44 million to the Department of Justice;
- \$10.77 million to the Department of Culture and Heritage;
- \$64.1 million to the Department of Education;
- \$85.77 million to the Department of Health;
- \$8.32 million to the Department of Environment;
- \$82.73 million to the Department of Community and Government Services;
- \$23.29 million to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation;
- \$73.39 million to the Nunavut Housing Corporation; and
- \$12.54 million to Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take any questions or comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. I will now ask if any committee members have general comments. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on the Inuktitut because I

was reading Inuktitut, \$32.44 million to the Department of Justice, in the Inuktitut, it tells me \$32.44 million to the Legislative Assembly, “Maligalirijikkunnut.” There’s a differentiation in the translation because \$8.6 million in the Inuktitut also says \$8.62 million (interpretation) for the Office of the Legislative Assembly. (interpretation ends) “Maligalirijikkunnut,” I need a clarification if that’s for the Legislative Assembly or for Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For clarification, the Office of the Legislative Assembly, through this interim appropriation, is seeking \$8.62 million and the Department of Justice is seeking \$32.44 million. I’m sorry if the translation for this document was inaccurate. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Yes, the English version is correct. Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a general question. I know that with this interim appropriation, it is just basically a percentage of previous budgets that has been applied for and it follows the budgeting process used previously in election years.

I know there has been a lot of discussion around this House about the budget process, and the minister himself has said that there needs to be some fairly serious changes to the process to truly

give an accurate picture of what a department needs to provide the services that it's mandated to do to Nunavummiut. I know it's not directly related to this bill, Mr. Chairman, but it does have direct relevance to the impact of this.

Have there been any substantial changes to the budgetary process that are going to be upcoming in the next appropriation phase of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you very much for the question. At this point there's no direct change for the operations and maintenance process at this time, but I have committed that we're likely to see the capital appropriations process this coming fall. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. No more comments? Okay. At this time I will allow members if they have any questions on the minister's opening comments, please do so now. If not, we will move on to clause by clause. In the white binder that is below your desk, go to Bill 2. Bill 2, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018*. Clause 1. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Interim Amounts Appropriated for the Period of April 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Interim Appropriation. \$491,804,000. Agreed? Mr. Main, do you have a question? Go ahead.

Mr. Main: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm unsure if I should have raised this earlier, but I have a question regarding the departments that deliver grants and contributions funding. My understanding is that these amounts represent a percentage of the annual budget, but some grants and contributions programs are typically spent... . The complete amount for the entire year will be spent very quickly following April 1.

I would just like clarification. When it comes to these grants and contributions programs, particularly economic development or Nunavut Housing Corporation, how is this issue being dealt with given that this budget is not intended to last for an entire fiscal year, but some programs are administered on yearly basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) A very good question. It's something that, through this budget process, as in my opening comments, we looked at the last four years of spending by each department. Some of them spent their first quarter a lot more, especially on grants and contributions, as you have mentioned.

I can easily say that Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation are the two major ones that you can see their budget reflection in this, that their grants and contributions are geared towards keeping the operations.

When it comes to application-based where it requires applications, there are certain things that each department does slightly different and that's where we have been able to look at for the last four years each of the departments' spending patterns by each quarter and our finance through. We analyze it and come up with and agree to with the departments in terms of how much grants and contributions they need towards this. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as a follow-up question, can the minister confirm that it will be business as normal when it comes to these programs, or have there been any programs that have been placed on hold or placed on freeze, or is it just a straight across the board business as normal situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.

Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) We have given the departments that this has to be status quo and these are the amounts that have been given to us. Hopefully by tomorrow we will have put our mandate which we will then look at for future spending, but before we are able to make these decisions as the Fifth Assembly, I have given directions to the departments and to our ministers that this should be status quo for the next three months. Come May is when we would look at those programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Towtongie, you had a question. No? Okay. Sorry. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials. The appropriation of \$491,804,000, there are figures above that on the top portion of the page. First of all, to use as an example, in Bill 2, there is \$8,603,000. In the minister's opening comments, it says \$8.62 million. The \$3,000 is not included in your opening comments, and there's a total difference of \$64,000. Why is it written that way? That is my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation):

Thank you. Bill 2, with three pages, those are the actual numbers that we are trying to get approved. Those are the exact numbers. In my opening comments, we just rounded it off. In English, it's (interpretation ends)

rounded up or rounded down (interpretation) and that is listed in the opening comments. I didn't want to mention all of the exact numbers, so we just rounded off the numbers in my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just for clarification, the numbers that we will be using are accurate in the bill itself, so these are the numbers we will be using. He just rounded them off in his opening comments. Again, Total Interim Appropriation. \$491,804,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 5. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 6. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 2 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 2 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeegok, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. David Akeegok: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to thank our staff for

getting this put together to keeping this government operational up to June.

I really sincerely thank each of the members for help in approving this through this appropriation. I look forward to sitting here along with my colleagues on each of our entire budgets come May and June. I just wanted to thank everybody for that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. That completes Bill 2. I will now ask the minister if we can proceed on to his comments on Bill 3. Minister Akeegok.

**Bill 03 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2017-
2018 – Consideration in
Committee**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to keep my officials here. I would like you all to know that I will have to change my witnesses with the other items and I'll be calling witnesses as necessary as we proceed, Mr. Chairman. Can I start my opening remarks?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear before you today to present Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018, No. 3.* (interpretation ends) Through this bill, the government is seeking to increase its overall appropriation by \$56,602,000 as follows:

- \$49 million to the Department of Health, required to address cost overruns in a variety of health programs, including medical travel, mental health and treatment, elders'

long-term residential care, hospitals and physicians treatment, and TB screening clinic;

- \$6.2 million to the Department of Justice, required to address projected cost overruns within the RCMP, Corrections and Court Operations Branch; and
- \$1,402,000 (interpretation) for the Department of Family Services to address the projected cost overruns with Children and Family Services and Corporate Services branches.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take any questions or comments. We are quite open for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Are there any general comments? If not, we will move on to proceed to the clause-by-clause review. We will go to the clause-by-clause, page-by-page review of the bill starting with page 4 of the bill.

Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) 2017-18, No. 3. Family Services. Not Previously Authorized. Total Children and Family Services. \$1,402,000. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the descriptor it says that a higher than expected number of family services required residential care in 2017-18. I'm just wondering if the minister would be able to provide the different categories and if they have the numbers associated with what type of care it is. Is it children? Is it mental illness? What are the categories of the residential care that

Family Services is responsible for?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Not necessarily by class, but in 2017-18 the number of clients has risen from 189 to 243. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see that number in the details, but it still doesn't really give me an answer on where the focus... . The reason I'm even talking about this is that when I just made a comment a little while ago in the last bill, I'm talking about recognizing budgetary and a real analysis on need. If there's an unexpected increase, I'm curious as to which category of care that that higher increased need is stemming from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, may I ask that my colleague, the Minister of Family Services, he may have the categories broken down, if that's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Minister Savikataaq, are you prepared to answer that question? Please go ahead.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. I don't have exact categories broken down exactly how much and the numbers, but the two main categories are we're sending more people for out-of-territory care and we're also sending more people to visit the clients that we have out-of-territory and out-of-settlement care. For example, if they have an elder in Igloodik or Gjoa Haven or down in Ottawa, then we pay for the people to go visit clients. These are not our clients that are going down to go do the visiting.

Those two are the main categories, so more people being sent out for treatment, elders' care, and out-of-territory care for people who can't get the services within Nunavut and more people travelling to visit people who are out of the community care. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the consolidation of senior services last year of bringing all Family Services responsibility for seniors back into the Department of Health, are there currently any senior programs through Family Services that they're still having expenditures on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There are programs that are linked to the seniors that Family Services still operates. I believe our minister just mentioned that some of them are not necessarily Family Services care, under

their care. Some of them are under health care and those are an example of seniors who are under health care that families want to travel and go see them. There's a program that's available through Family Services and that program would be used. That's one of the examples. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that from a family visit or the visiting people in residential care does fall under Family Services. Just a clarification on the question that I asked, are there still any seniors being provided any type of care through Family Services that hasn't been transferred over to the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Based on the information that I currently have, anything that was to be transferred to Health has been transferred to Health. There are budgets for Health towards that. Anything that was not transferred back to Health is still run as Family Services. That's the two distinctions, but for whether there are any programs that haven't gone to Family Services, looking through the information and looking at our business plans, I don't think there are any outstanding programs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister

Akeeagok. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if you're as confused as I am about that response, but maybe if the minister would care to redirect his question to the minister responsible to get some clarity, it might be appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. It's up to Minister Akeeagok if he wants to redirect the question and I'll leave it up to him. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll try to clarify. The question that I thought I asked was, "Are there programs that are in Health that are supposed to be in Family Services or in Family Services that are supposed to be in Health?" The answer that I provided was what's in Health is there when it comes to senior care, what's there right now. What's in Family Services is in Family Services. This supplementary appropriation is focused on what Family Services has over-expended. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response and clarification from the minister. I do understand now. Maybe I'm asking the question a little bit unclear. Does the Department of Family Services still have any senior programs under its responsibility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes.

Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, there are programs that are geared towards seniors and if I missed any programs, through you, I'll ask our family services minister. The programs that I'm currently aware of are the Senior Fuel Subsidy program, the income assistance for seniors, and Family Services may have clients that are over 60. Those are the programs that Family Services would be operating. If I did miss anything, I would ask that I have Minister Savikataaq assist me on this question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Minister Akeeagok said, through income support is the senior fuel subsidy, but one where we deal with elders too is any elder that is under guardianship, whether it's private or public, and the care of the client is dealt with through Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank both ministers for that clarification. I just have, I believe, one final question. When somebody is sent outside of the territory to receive care, are they still eligible for income support? If they are in a southern facility, are they still getting income support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes.

Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, I'll ask for Minister Savikataaq to respond to that question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It really depends on the situation. It's case by case. There may be some instances where they would be allowed on income support, but I can't give a broad statement. It really depends on each individual case. It depends on what is covered and where they're getting treatment. We have had some yes, where they qualify for income support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Savikataaq. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question here on the details. Within the department, it indicates that they are reallocating budget surpluses from other divisions. With that occurring, does that impact the other divisions that should be benefiting all Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Overall it does have an impact in terms of divisions that haven't spent. We do encourage each of the departments to spend what they have

been allocated.

In terms of Family Services, the bulk of that that they transferred over to help with their overruns would be on income assistance. If there is not as much income assistance, then you transfer it over to another branch. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. When you are reallocating budgets from various divisions, when do you identify that they may get into a deficit situation and how is that deficit taken care of? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. I'm not sure what that has to do with the process we're doing here today, but Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our departments provide a variance report on a monthly basis and it's towards of the end of the fiscal year that once we start seeing any cost overruns, those are the ones we ask departments to realign their budgets. If they can't physically do that, then we would have to go through the supplementary appropriation that is here for us right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Again, we're on page 4. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The material provided here makes

reference to the fact that this residential care service is demand-driven. The number of clients is increased from 189 to 243. Is this a trend that's expected to continue? What caused this increase? Do we know the root cause of this sudden increase in the number clients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It has been a trend since 2013. It has been a steady trend in terms of the clients that have been required. This is a trend that we follow. For this, I don't know if there was a major spike, but there's that trend to try to meet the budgetary demands and the actuals. I think this year has hit that amount. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that's a trend that has been in place for a number of years, will it be taken into account when we're going forward from this point in terms of looking forward to next year, looking forward to not approving a supplementary appropriation because the correct amount will be budgeted in the first place? Is that trend being taken into account? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the trends

that we're looking at and seeing, this is one component of it. I think we're going to go through each of the pages and we can speak to the trends. When there are trends that are happening and can't meet the budgetary, we then start looking at our own budgets. That's a very valuable question that we will be expecting when we present our main estimates. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also in the materials provided here, it makes reference to the fact that within the department, there is less available surplus. It makes reference to the department's recent and ongoing income assistance reforms. I wonder if the minister could clarify: where have those surpluses been eaten up? Is it in the administration of the Income Assistance Program or is there more money going to these income assistance clients? Just a general indication would suffice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the bulk of the growth has been for the residential care and I think that's where you're seeing the growth in terms of the dollars that are being sought for through this sup. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Maybe I'll try to clarify. It says that there's less surplus available within the department and part of the reason is the department's recent and ongoing income assistance reforms. I'm trying to understand: where is that money being directed? Are the income assistance reforms...? Does it mean that we're heavier on the administrative side or does it actually mean that we're providing more funds to the income assistance clients? Where is that money going? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think there are a number of factors when it comes to Family Services.

Family Services has taken good strides in ensuring that what they have been allocating for their budgets, they're able to hire the people that they need to run the programs. The programs, over the transition in terms of when it was moved out from another department, a lot of the work was trying to figure out who's doing the work and how do you do the work. The recent income support reform that's taking place has a contribution to this and the government's response to residential services in terms of sending out clients and ensuring that clients are going. There are different kinds of care that are being transferred.

There are a number of factors, I think, in terms of how Family Services have come to the point that there are budget shortfalls for this fiscal year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase this. This information indicates that the department is spending more of the money that is budgeted on income assistance, right? They're spending more than they have in past years. Where is that additional spending going? Is it going toward their own staff? Is it going to the clients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Minister Savikataaq is better able to respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Savikataaq, if you could, please.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The income support reforms that were done directly affect the amount of money that is spent. The best example I can come up with is the child tax benefit. Before the reforms came into place, the amount that a family received for child tax benefit was considered income and was deducted from the amount that would be paid out in income support. After the reforms, it's not considered income, so the calculations that are made for the clients are that they get more money. The clients of income support are getting more money if they are within a family group. The bottom line is that the child tax benefit is not considered income for income support calculations, so therefore there is more income support money being paid out to

the clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. We are at Total Children and Family Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,402,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 5. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Law Enforcement. \$2,600,000. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister. It states in here, (interpretation ends) purchase of new equipment for the test on new drugs. Is this anticipation of the federal legislation on cannabis this coming summer? That's my question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, Mr. Chairman, if I could ask of switching my witness, I would like the Deputy Minister of Justice to sit next to me in replacement of my ADM. If I could have that first and then I'll respond to the member's question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Do members agree to change witnesses at the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the

witness in.

For the record, Mr. Akeegok, if you could please introduce your witness. Thank you.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is the Deputy Minister of Justice, Bill MacKay. Thank you. With your permission, I can now respond to the question that was just asked.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, that is a very good question for the law enforcement in terms of drugs. No, that is not in relation to cannabis. There has been a big opioid crisis in Canada and hopefully it won't land in Nunavut, but these are the new drugs that are coming out that they need to learn and enforce. In December, as finance ministers met, a lot of the money that will be received through cannabis, the 25 percent that the federal government had asked for is going to go towards the RCMP law enforcement in terms of testing for cannabis. There are two components to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the answer. The other question that I have is on our packages, it goes the high cost of housing due to a lack of housing in the communities. Could the minister explain why this is there? What are the high housing costs for? (interpretation) I don't understand it. (interpretation ends) Can the minister elaborate on that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser.

Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This one is related to the RCMP. They hired nine additional members to their force in various communities and as a result, they do offer staff housing. When there are additional members, as part of the government contracts, we also have to find staff housing towards it. The additional cost for finding that housing was in the range of \$300,000. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main, you had a question?

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister mentioned, under this item here which is \$2.6 million, how it has been broken down in here, he mentioned about \$300,000 was for housing. I wonder if he could break that figure down further into the different components. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I may miss a number. If I do, I do ask assistance from our staff here.

Within that \$2.6 million that the RCMP has cost overruns, about \$360,000 is to maintain the current radio systems, \$1 million on vehicle replacements, I already mentioned the \$300,000 for additional housing costs, and \$280,000 for special equipment purchases such as

fantanyl medic packs, fume hoods, and between \$150,000 and \$200,000 for incidents that had occurred within the territory. Those are the numbers that I have rounded. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. (interpretation) You mentioned earlier that \$1 million is for vehicle replacements. Why weren't you expecting to have to purchase them? They should have already been included in the budget. You said it was for new vehicle purchases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. That's a good question. The \$1 million is for replacement of vehicles. We have a contract with the RCMP and in that contract they receive any equipment that is needed. Last year the vehicles were not really replaced because of lack of funding. They were trying to delay the replacement of vehicles. This year, with the vehicles that are breaking down, they had to purchase the new vehicles. That's why it's such a sharp increase from last year.

They were holding back on the purchase of vehicles, but the vehicles are aging. The contract with the RCMP doesn't really indicate whether or not we need to purchase this or we need to purchase that. During our discussions with them to plan the budgets, they come to an agreement and that's how it's such a big increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It also states here... . Well, my colleague mentioned this. The new drugs are the most dangerous. Is the testing equipment for those drugs for all the communities or only some of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, every officer will have these packages and for all the communities, a number of things. Those are the new equipment that they needed to purchase for the officers and for the public that may get into that situation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are they starting to find the new drugs that are more dangerous in our communities, and is that why they planned for it? Alternatively, if they are not finding the new drugs, which communities has the RCMP found those drugs in to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. The new drugs are coming into our communities and this is very bad news. I wish they could be stopped. There have been two communities that

have been affected. Any new drugs that come into Canada would start coming here and they're already in the NWT. Those drugs are very dangerous. I fear for those who want to take drugs. I would like them to please be aware. Sometimes drugs are laced with strong, dangerous drugs. It would be better if you didn't take those drugs. It's dangerous because they're now coming into our communities and I applaud the RCMP for preparing for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: I thought I was done here. I thank the minister. I just have a final question. It mentions here the high housing cost due lack of housing in the communities. Does that mean Nunavut? What's "the communities"? I would just like a clarification on that term. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is written in the documents we have provided that we have nine new police officers that have been placed in six Nunavut communities and they need housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): This is just a general comment and I don't have any more questions. We keep hearing about this and I have a concern. I don't want to see that again when you just state (interpretation ends) "the communities."

(interpretation) It seems to be downgrading the smaller communities. That's what I have noticed. It's just a general comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving on. Mr. Hickes, you had a question?

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the \$2.6 million request, it speaks to increased demand for extra judicial officers and interpreters, and it states that seven additional judicial officers have been hired. Have any additional interpreters had to be hired out of this as well? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently no, there haven't been additional interpreters and there are a number of factors that they had done in terms of not hiring. One of the major components is having trained, qualified interpreters that are in the legal or judicial role. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave that alone. I'll go over to where it's talking about in the program 1 again, it is talking about the new radio system that these dollars are being used to keep the old system running. With the knowledge that there's a new system that's going to be needed to replace the existing system, are there budgeted dollars forthcoming for the new system or is that going to be a supplementary

appropriation next time when they know what the actual figures are from the RCMP? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is currently being planned by our department. We will be asking for an appropriation and we're in the planning stages for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Kind of the same question for the drug testing. There has been a lot of discussion of the upcoming cannabis legislation, and I know there has been a lot talk nationally on testing for cannabis use while driving, as an example. Is some of that equipment a part of this appropriation or will that be forthcoming as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Any of the gearing towards cannabis has been the RCMP plan to roll it out once the federal legislation is passed. There are a number of plans that they are planning to do. During our finance ministers' meeting, the public service minister was also there and he rolled out the plans for the RCMP if and when the cannabis legislation is passed. There are a number of things, as my member colleague has mentioned, for road tests and other. There are plans

towards it, but there's nothing in this supplementary appropriation towards cannabis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In program 3, the correctional facilities on the overtime, it speaks to each correctional centre has to have a full squad on duty every hour of every day. What is a full squad here at the BCC? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Eight. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Mr. Chairman, I don't think I caught that. Did he say eight?

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. Hickes: That leads me to my next question where the example provided on what is needed for overtime it states that the BCC alone, for a three-day blizzard, costs \$180,000. I think I'm in the wrong career, Mr. Chairman.

>>Laughter

Maybe the minister may want to clarify that number. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, may I ask for Deputy MacKay to respond to this question? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. MacKay.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as the minister mentioned, there is a squad of eight correctional facility caseworkers or workers that are on the floor, but there is also staff that support them for management, the warden, the health care provider. There are many staff other than the squad that are on duty. If there is a storm, then all of those people have to stay in the facility and another shift is called in as well, so that adds to the overtime costs. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. MacKay. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a clarification, the way I understand it, if there is a blizzard, the staff that are on duty aren't able to make it home, so they have stay, yet he stated that there is another shift that is called in at the same time, so they're double staffed during a storm, just to clarify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. MacKay, for clarification, please.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're double staffed. They will call in the other shift when they think a storm is going to occur and they will come in and so they are double staffed for a period of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. MacKay. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I noticed that the Deputy Minister of Finance is in a sling. I hope that the minister didn't do that when he saw the supplementary appropriation.

My question for Justice, for program 1, RCMP, you have identified the need for housing for nine additional regular members. Is staff housing provided for each RCMP member? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm happy to say that I wasn't the cause of this. It was one of our staff that has caused this, but it was in a friendly game of hockey. It wasn't at the workplace. I hope for a full recovery of my deputy minister, who can't write right now. He's got to whisper to me.

For the question that is related to the nine members, the RCMP procures their staff housing through the federal program. I don't know if I mentioned this, but we do have a unique relationship with the RCMP through a contract. For those that were in the standing committee, I just want to clarify that 70 percent of the RCMP cost is borne by this government and 30 percent is borne by the federal government. Through that special arrangement, there are certain procurements that the RCMP goes through and in the end that we pay for contracts.

For staff housing, they're procured through the Public Works Canada that they go through and secure staff housing. They don't go through our Government of Nunavut staff housing where we build our own. There are differences in terms of how the RCMP are treated within our public service. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just curious if the RCMP intends on providing staff housing to all RCMP members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When the RCMP does send out their members, they do it in a set time. They don't stay in one community for a number of years. Their operations are quite unique where they don't keep members in one community for a long period of time; they do shifts. Therefore through that, they don't expect that their members will own their houses in those communities for the majority of the time. They pretty much match members with staff housing. That's the program that, through their unique operations, they do that. When they do identify that need for a member in all 25 communities, they try to match with staff housing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I find it a little bit disappointing that the RCMP doesn't encourage the members to become part of the community. For the rare instances that RCMP members do buy a home, what does the RCMP provide for them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. I'm not sure this is quite the line of questioning we need for here. We all know that RCMP officers only spend three years at a time in our communities. We can't expect them to buy their own houses in our communities, which is why the service is provided by the RCMP, not even our government. Mr. Akeegok, if you want to comment on that, please.

Hon. David Akeegok: *Qujannamiik.* Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good comments, Mr. Chairman, on this. I do want to give a very good shout-out to the RCMP. Even though they're there for three years, their role is to help build a community and have a safe community, and they do a wonderful job on it. In an event that an RCMP member does decide to buy their own house, there are federal programs geared for housing. They're getting paid through the federal pay system, not necessarily through our system. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last question on the RCMP is: how much is the total contract on an annual basis for the RCMP service? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. On page 5 of the bill it states \$40,071,000. If that is approved, then \$42,671,000 would be the contract for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. I'll move on to program 3, correctional facilities overage on permanent staff overtime and casuals.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone, we're only on law enforcement so far; we're not to the other two line items, so if you can please hold your questions until we get to that point. Right now we're asking questions on law enforcement. Are there any more questions on law enforcement? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Yes, one last question on law enforcement. In the minister's letter that provided us additional information, we had a total budget of \$40 million to law enforcement with actual spent of \$30 million, with a forecast of \$42 million. I was just curious if or how law enforcement intends on spending \$42 million up until the end of the fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask my colleague what number he's

referring to. If he can give me a page number of what he's looking at, as I can't find it in the correspondence he is referring to. I see the \$30 million in the letter that I provided on Friday, but maybe he can provide clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A letter dated March 16 to the Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus, which was provided to us by the Minister of Finance. It's that letter that I'm referring to and it's on page 4 of 5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking questions about the letter. The \$30 million that is written in there has been spent up to now and they're planning to use \$42 million. This is from a report from RCMP expenditures and what they think they're going to spend. \$2.6 million is the supplementary appropriation following the numbers we got from the RCMP. That's what I wrote in the letter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at \$2.6 million for program 1, MLA briefing notes, and it's telling me that the RCMP in Nunavut is operating on an outdated radio system which is failing. At the top, background for requests, it's saying that the Department of Justice is dedicated to

improving operational efficiency. However, due to the nature of its operations, a \$2.6 million increase is required to cover needs for staff training, extra staff due to extreme weather, and unexpected incidents at the facilities.

What's the situation here? It's talking about \$2.6 million for coverage on permanent staff overtime and casual salaries, then later on same thing, \$2.6 million. It's talking about an outdated radio system. Can I get a clarification on that, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. This line of question was already asked earlier by another member, but Mr. Akeegok, if you want to enlighten us again, please.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That figure under (interpretation ends) the RCMP, \$2.6 million, I covered the breakdowns. When you go further down, there's another section which is program 3. There's \$2.6 million on corrections too. I think that's what my member colleague is referencing. There are two \$2.6 million that are being referenced here, one is on the RCMP and one is on corrections. For the RCMP, I covered the radios, the staff housing, the purchase of vehicles, and the incidents that have arose in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Minister Akeegok. If we're talking about two \$2.6 million, is that \$5.2 million or \$6.2 million? What

is the total cost of this? I'm not understanding it and Mr. Chairman, if somebody could clarify it for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. On page 5 of our document, we're dealing with law enforcement of \$2.6 million. Further down the page, it says "Total Corrections. \$2.6 million." We're not dealing with it as a total right now. We're dealing with law enforcement of \$2.6 million on one line item. Do you have any more questions on that particular line item? Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that clarification. I do have a question in reading Inuktitut. In English it is saying "Main Estimates" for the supplementary appropriation, but in Inuktitut it telling me "Miksautisimajuq." That means that is guesswork of the estimate. Which one would be clearer, the main estimates or guesswork, *miksautisimajuq*? That's "almost what we're requesting." Mr. Chairman, can I get a clarification on that piece, main estimates for that year, 2017-18? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The one on the far left that says "Main Estimates," the numbers that are bolded like the \$40 million for law enforcement and registries is \$11 million are already authorized main estimates.

The one on the right are what is not previously authorized and we're still in 2017-18, so in Inuktitut, *miksautisimajuq*

is this is the best guess that we have that these will be over on certain amounts. Therefore we are asking this House to give a blessing on the supplementary appropriation. I'll use Justice. For the overall, \$6.2 million, of that, \$2.6 million is for RCMP. Those are the amounts that we are presenting to you to this House at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just getting confused in the Inuktitut version that these are the best guesswork that we have and the main estimates. It's almost clear in my mind now, so I'm finished with my questioning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Again, we're on Law Enforcement. \$2.6 million. The next line item is Total Registers and Court Services. \$1 million. Total Corrections. \$2,600,000. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To continue on my questioning about corrections, every year the branch has a cost overrun and if I recall correctly, those overruns are due to overtime of correctional facilities. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. The bulk of it is on overtime and I'll also add, on casual staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I recall correctly, the correctional facilities operate on a 12-hour shift basis. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, considering that the correctional facilities are running on a 12-hour schedule and that's causing considerable overtime, has the department ever considered switching to three eight-hour shift schedules and would that possibly solve the overtime issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll have the deputy minister, Mr. MacKay, respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. MacKay.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct that there are 12-hour shifts. Those 12-hour shifts are calculated so that it's a 42-hour workweek. There isn't overtime past the 12 hours and there isn't overtime until

you go past the 42 hours in a week. This was a change we made, I think, three years ago with the collective agreement. That significantly reduced our overtime costs from 2015-16. It was around the \$4 million range for overtime and now it's down to a \$2.1 million range. Consequently the Corrections Division's deficits dropped in that time period from \$4.5 million to the \$2.6 million you see here. We are making some headway into reducing those overtime costs and we will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. MacKay. I would just like to remind members to please mute your telephones. Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, the facility operations run with a considerable amount of overtime and you base the schedule on 42 hours a week. What is the actual number of hours on average of employees' workweek? Was it 50 or 60 hours a week? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. That is in so much detail that I'll ask if we need to provide it to the House, we will provide it in the form of a written response. Our deputy isn't able to respond to that either. We don't have that information. I didn't know how far we needed to in terms of the operations of the corrections services. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. I have questions. I don't know how many times it's repeated here. (interpretation ends) This \$2.6 million increase is required to cover needs for staff training, background for requests (interpretation) is there, (interpretation ends) program 3 (interpretation) is also like that, and (interpretation ends) required regular staff training. (interpretation) Perhaps all of the staff are permanent. Are the permanent staff and casuals going to be trained and (interpretation ends) how often? (interpretation) What kind of training do they receive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Deputy Minister MacKay to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. MacKay.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in response, I think I'm answering the member's question. In terms of training, yes, there's a training component to our supplementary appropriation under both court services and correctional facilities. Part of the reason for that is currently we don't have people who do training as full-time staff. We contract that out so that adds to the cost of training and then as this notes, that also increases the overtime because when people are training, they have to be covered by someone else and sometimes that will involve overtime as well. That does increase our costs.

Like everything else, we're looking at

ways we can better plan for that and better budget for that, for instance, by perhaps asking for extra staff that would be full-time training for both correctional facilities and courts so that we can rely less on contract training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. MacKay. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk: Thank you. I was curious in terms of when we're talking about a \$2.6 million increase in getting staff training. My question was: what kind of training is being offered to staff or casual employees? Are they also getting the training necessary? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. MacKay.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the case of both corrections and courts, that training is provided to all casual employees as well as obviously indeterminate employees. When a casual person comes on, on a casual contract, it's a four-month contract, but they will spend a certain number of weeks at the beginning of that doing their training. The training is geared, for the most part, at least for correctional facilities, it's called NUHALT and it is terms of dealing... . Conflict management training is the main component of that training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. MacKay. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'm just thinking as well; I'm not sure if there are

program costs in terms of giving programs and specific for youth corrections or the BCC. I'm not sure. Can I ask what kind of programs they also offer for people who are in corrections, or am I getting off topic? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. I'm not sure that they will have this kind of detail in front of them, but Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like to have (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister MacKay (interpretation) to highlight that, if you will allow it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. MacKay.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you mentioned, I don't have the exact details in front of me, but I can give the member an overview of what kind of programming is offered to inmates. It depends on the facility, obviously. For the lower-security facilities, for instance, in Rankin Inlet or the halfway house here in Iqaluit, there is a lot of trades training. It often involves the participation of employers in the community who will take on inmates as an apprentice or in a mentor relationship to give them skills so that when they leave the facility, they can take on employment.

Within the BCC and Makigiarvik, there's less opportunity for those inmates to leave the facility, but they do provide programming that will address each inmate-specific need. For instance, there is programming available for addictions counselling or for anger

management programming, things that are tailored to the particular inmate to allow him or her to be able to address the issues that may have put them into the correctional facility to begin with.

They are also training that, again, even if they're not able to leave the facility, they do offer some training that will allow them to more employable when they do get out of the facility. For example, they will help them finish their high school education or can provide some foundation for trades training. We have a trades foundation course that the NAC offers. They offer that in Rankin Inlet.

There's a wide variety of programming that we try to provide for the inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk: I'm done. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page 5. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$6,200,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving to page 6. Department of Health. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Mr. Akeeagok, you wanted to make a comment?

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Not a comment, but if you may, we are going to another department. I have a witness available. Through you, if I could switch my witnesses before we get into questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. I was going to give you the opportunity to change witnesses at some point, but if you want to do it now, that's fine.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could exchange witnesses, please. Sorry. Do members agree that he can exchange the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. Sergeant-at-Arms, please.

Thank you. For the record, Minister Akeeagok, if you could please introduce your new witness.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. The person who just entered on my left is the Deputy Minister of Health, Colleen Inuujaq Stockley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Again, we're on Health. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Directorate. \$5.9 million. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): My mistake. I was going to ask a question under medical travel. Thank you.

Chairman: Okay. Thank you. Are there any questions under the directorate? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many questions under this one, but when we're talking about elders' home operational costs, it talks about the three continuing care facilities

that are funded and three different elders' homes.

In a line of questioning the other day we were talking about the prefeasibility of the Igloolik and Gjoa Haven, exploring the option of expanding those facilities. At the time the minister wasn't sure of what number of beds was being looked at to start the prefeasibility study. I'm just wondering if we can get an update today on making these existing facilities more efficient and where that prefeasibility study is sitting at right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. For this year, under the preplanning phase, we are looking at Igloolik under the preplanning. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is that preplanning going to entail and what is the current status of it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Through you, may I ask the deputy of health to elaborate more on the preplanning of the capital plans? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Stockley.

Ms. Stockley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health had preplanning money approved in the capital last year for 2017-18. The preplanning was to look at the feasibility for making an expansion to Igloolik, as the minister alluded to.

Keeping in mind that an election happened and we expect that there will be a new government mandate, we're still in the process of looking at what options we could do to expand Igloolik. It hasn't gotten very far at this point, but we expect that there will be further movement once we know the new government mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Stockley. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. More of a comment just to finish off, when we're talking about utilizing government resources and we have identified the inefficiency of the current model of a number of our facilities, I would suggest the department and when the mandate comes out, I'm sure the government will have some topics on there on elder care. I look forward to seeing some progress on maximizing the efficiency of existing facilities as well as identifying different areas around the territory where there's opportunity for new facilities to meet and address the current wait-list we have. Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'll follow up with my colleague's line of questioning there regarding the elders' home operational costs. I would be interested to see what the breakdown is of that \$900,000. Which facilities are requiring this money? How is it being broken down among the different facilities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$900,000 is shared by three facilities at \$300,000 each for the three elders' homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm just wondering, because it's mentioned in here, these facilities are operated under a service contract by non-profit Nunavut societies. What is the procedure for these societies to notify the Department of Health that they're going to have a cost overrun? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The figures relate to the three elders' homes administered by non-government organizations, which recently got new contracts for continuation of services. This was part of that amount.

Further, if these figures are needed to be increased or decreased, the protocol is that the Department of Health meets with these societies to discuss these

figures. When they are required to deliberate over issues, they can do that. They do have specific Nunavut and Canada (interpretation ends) standards, (interpretation) to state it in English, to adhere to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It mentions in here that when the three elders' homes initially opened, they were intended to provide residential care at levels 2 and 3 clients. There are a number of things that have contributed to the fact that it states in here that the majority of the homes' residents have required more direct care and assistance and have been allowed to age in place.

Getting back to the budget here, is it predicted for the coming years that the cost of operating these elders' homes is going to continue to increase or is it a plateau type of situation where we're now capturing all the costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, may I ask Deputy Minister Stockley to respond to that question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Stockley.

Ms. Stockley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When these contracts were initially set up with those three elders' homes, they were set up by the

Department of Family Services. The Department of Health only took over those contracts as of April 1, 2017. One of the things that we immediately became aware of is that the standards that Health wanted to see were perhaps a little different. We were giving them a clinical eye. We had some differences in terms of how much care and by whom.

We had some recommendations with regard to nutrition, dietitian input, and so on. When we looked at the contracts, there was no way that the elders facilities could provide what was required for those elders with the \$1 million. Each of the three of them went up to \$1.3 million. \$855,000 is what we expect it will be next year and we have asked for that through the proper budgeting process, but we're in a deficit of almost \$900,000 for this year and that's the reason behind it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Correct me if I'm wrong or stop me completely, but looking at the budget, I see a lot set aside for mental health and treatment contracts. What I don't see and I believe what is happening all over Nunavut is trauma care. We go through a lot of shocks; post-traumatic stress syndrome. Has trauma care been discussed in setting aside budget items for it along with mental care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Today we're here to only talk about budget overruns and that's what we're trying to do in the O&M. We're not talking about actual costs for other issues, so I think that question is a little

out of line. It could probably be better asked in the House or through some other venue, if you don't mind. Do you have any other questions? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. I appreciate that.

I was looking at the forecast for mental health and treatment contracts in 2017-18 and it's \$16 million. What's the number, \$16.7 million, compared to the budget of \$6.2 million? What is the situation here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the \$5.9 million on the page we are reviewing and as per my colleague's question, the figure of \$43.1 million includes that amount. This figure includes \$16 million along with \$10 million that is within the total figure here.

Through you, I would ask that (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister Stockley (interpretation) be allowed to respond in greater detail as to why the request includes another \$10 million within the total figure. If you can allow her to respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Stockley.

Ms. Stockley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's really a good news story that Nunavummiut are asking for help,

and that's the whole idea of getting the message out of calling, going to your health centre, using the helpline, and asking for help. We're seeing that more people are asking for help and therefore more people are going out for treatment. We've had an increase in people going out for treatment.

We know that there is a high prevalence of mental health disorders; mental health and addictions. There are cost drivers that are outside of the realm of the Department of Health, so clients from the Department of Family Services and case referrals from the Department of Justice. Anybody who is court mandated to have treatment would also fall under this budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Stockley. We just finished Total Directorate. Before we move on to the next one, we're going to take a five-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 18:03 and resumed at 18:10

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We are on Total Health Care Service Delivery of \$43,100,000. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under elders' out-of-territory long-term residential care, you have identified the issue of dementia care. You also mentioned that the number is likely understated because of routine screening for dementia is not available in the territory. This sort of sparked my interest. Is the department looking into making dementia screening available in the territory anytime soon? Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's included in there, but it's not one of the top priorities. The mental health services are more important right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same topic of elders' out-of-territory long-term care, the last bullet under that heading identified that prior years cost of this out of territory was absorbed by regional mental health budgets. I was kind of surprised when the minister's letter showed the breakdown of the budgets that the department didn't include any internal funds to cover the over-expenditure. Are all of the areas under the department going to be fully expending their budget this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 6, item No. 1, \$5.9 million, Not Previously Authorized, that's for the elders' out-of-territory long-term residence. The main estimates for Health towards that were not identified. This is something that has come for this year in terms of getting the elders' care and that's where we're seeking that \$5.9 million towards the elder care and sending them to the appropriate places. (interpretation)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was more along the lines of: is the Department of Health covering any of its over-expenditures from other areas within their budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, if I make a mistake, Deputy Minister Stockley can correct me. We find money in areas that are not spent and I think that was the question. I can respond that in areas that will be over-expended, (interpretation ends) Health (interpretation) has not taken anything out internally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other areas that aren't indicated here which generally have a certain lapse of funds every year, those lapsed funds aren't going to be transferred over to cover the overages that have been indicated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the clarification. Yes, anything that has not

been spent within the department, what we do through the budgets is take what's not going to be spent and we put it over to those that are being over-expended and try to balance that. The remainder of the balance for the Department of Health is \$49 million.

In the letter that I recently sent as early as for the Inuktitut version that's today and the English version on Friday, it's an attachment that does not have a number which shows where the overage and under-expense. If you look at what they plan to transfer, it's quite small compared to the overage that we're seeking for through this supplementary appropriation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate the appendix where the internal transfers by branch have been provided, but what I was sort of referring to is, in the letter that the minister had sent us on Friday on page 4, it has a breakdown of program areas which require additional funds. Under Family Services, they were kind enough to provide their lapses that they're going to be using to partially fund their overage. I was just curious why Health hadn't done the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Health does not have anything to... . Any of their branches does not indicate anywhere there are going to be lapses. Therefore what's on

page 4 of 5 is a true reflection of what Health is currently dealing with and it's over by \$49 million. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to point out that the listing under Health is not branches; it's actually programs. I do know that there are a number of programs under the branches in Health that do have chronic lapses every single year. Even though they might be spent elsewhere, the budget still remains a lapse in that area, such as the nursing recruitment strategy, HR, IT. If I recall correctly, those each had \$1 million lapses in prior years. Would it be possible for the minister to give us a breakdown for Health of all the programs that are contributing their lapsed funds to cover some of these overages? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Again you're asking for information that is very detailed which may not be available here today. Minister Akoak...

>> *Laughter*

...Akeegok. Sorry.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for recognizing that. We don't currently have that level of detail here. If we do need to provide it to the House, we will commit for it at a later date. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to the elders' homes operational costs. Under the second bullet it indicates that the current elder homes are operated under service contracts by non-profit Nunavut societies. I would just like to say that is a great opportunity for Nunavut's societies, I should say. I hope that the department will continue to contract as many non-profit organizations as possible.

Moving on to the next bullet on the next page, under the topic of 24-hour care elder care, about halfway through the bullet it indicates that care is 24 hours per day, seven days a week, and that is to adhere to the Nunavut Department of Health residential care and facilities standards for elders' homes. These standards identify the minimum standards for the operation of elders' homes in Nunavut. I would just like to question if these elder care facilities are actually meeting the minimum standards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I responded to this question earlier. They have a new contract and the contracts have been increased because the Department of Health wants to make sure they follow the residential care facilities standards. The Department of Health meets and reviews these homes to make sure the standards are being followed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to clarify again: are these elders' homes currently meeting the minimum standards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. Right now (interpretation ends) as this is a new contract with this increase of \$900,000 that we talked about in the \$5.9 million that was discussed, there are minimum standards that are built into this contract. Through working very closely with the three societies and the department, they will and are striving to meet the standards to the level. Immediately not all of them are meeting the standards and it's one that our health and that was mentioned and the minister has mentioned that they are working towards getting into meeting the standards. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. I had to clear my throat as I haven't said anything in a while.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, on the medical travel about \$15 million is being requested and we have raised it in the House many times about the atrocious medical appointments that people are missing, especially in my region where a patient goes down to Winnipeg and finds out that he or she has no appointment.

I wonder: does the department have a record of the people that have gone down to their medical appointment but have, prior to landing in Winnipeg, been cancelled due to some miscommunications within the department? I wonder if the department has any figures on the actual costs of these missed appointments, including the airfares and doctors' bills.
(interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser.
Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. Our Minister of Health has committed to doing this extensive review on the medical travel. This includes those appointments that were missed or appointments that the hospital themselves have deferred for a number of things. I think that's one that our government has committed to making sure that there's a thorough review and find out which areas was at fault.

I think I remember his questioning and he's witnessing what's happening. It is a testament and we would include those in the review. I want to thank the member for raising that. Our minister has raised it and, through quick collaborations, was able to verify yes, any of those appointments that are missed are going to be part of that comprehensive review that our minister is reviewing.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I look forward to whenever the review report comes out. On the \$1.5 million (interpretation) request for the TB clinic in Qikiqtarjuaq, recently on I believe it was February 26 the federal government made quite a lot of money available to ITK. It was something like \$80 million. They set aside that money to be used for TB screening. Has ITK indicated to the Department of Health that we got a whole bunch of money from the federal government and told the Nunavut government that they have money available, that they could help pay for the TB screening? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser.
Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. That's a good question. Right now the federal government has indicated that for the 2018-19 budget, that's the money they will use to help Inuit fight TB. It has been indicated that money will be given to Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to use for the next five years to work in Inuit lands. They have indicated that they have a task force comprised of people from Inuit lands and the Department of Health is a part of this group.

With respect to the extra money that was supposed to be given to us by the federal government for that purpose, I haven't seen that as the finance minister. We will be provided with the details, which I look forward to. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami does a good job and we know that they are familiar with our department and our officials. That is where it stands at the moment. As we hear the details, we will be kept informed as ministers. That was

a very good question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. I would like to follow up on that medical travel issue. It mentions in here that medical travel is driven by uncontrollable factors, including birth rates, demographics, contract increases, and etcetera. In terms of this \$15 million overage, does the department have a good feel for what is driving this trend? The actuals are predicted to increase 5.6 percent over the previous fiscal year in terms of the drivers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, may I ask Deputy Minister Stockley to respond to that question? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Stockley.

Ms. Stockley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, medical travel and medevacs are up every year. We have a lot more people going on regular scheduled travel, which again is a good thing. It means they're potentially being diagnosed earlier and they're going for treatment. We have a huge increase in medevacs. A lot of it has been driven by respiratory illness. We have very low uptake of flu vaccine in our territory. We're probably the lowest in the whole country. I think it was about 10 percent.

I'll give you an example. We expected

probably about 60 medevacs in the Baffin in December and we're budgeted for probably about 40. We had over 90 and that trend has continued. We have such an increase in medevacs that we have been monitoring them on a weekly basis, especially this time of year during flu season. It's mainly respiratory-driven, so people with pneumonia, breathing problems, and those kinds of things.

It's a combination of people going out for regular scheduled care but also a huge increase in medevacs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Stockley. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't get into too much more detail here just in terms of understanding the drivers and the trend. In the population on the whole in Nunavut, are health conditions worsening or are they getting better? Maybe that's too broad of a question, but I'm just trying to understand here: are we getting ahead of the ball or is the ball catching up to us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, may I ask Deputy Minister Stockley to respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Stockley.

Ms. Stockley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately we don't do very well in Nunavut. We have the worst health outcomes in the country among

Inuit, as you know, mainly tied to the social determinants of health in terms of food insecurity and overcrowded housing, which is not helping certainly in driving the TB rate. Unfortunately we aren't making a lot of progress and we probably won't until many of the social determinants of health are addressed.

I can tell you that we're doing more in-territory. I can tell you that we're doing more at the QGH, for example, that we have been using the second OR that we have increased our endoscopy services. We just added some things like a fracture clinic at the QGH. We are doing more here and we will continue to do that anywhere we can in order to reduce medical travel.

I can also tell you that we're looking at a clinical program to support the telehealth facilities that we already have in place with the idea of being able to do more pre-op and post-op here in the territory. Things are moving in a good direction and the other regions as well. When I talk about telehealth, it would be involved in all three regions. You will hear more as we come forward with our O&M requests and some other things that we're hoping to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Stockley. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. I look forward to the O&M discussion.

When it comes to this mental health overage, \$10.5 million, on one hand it's very encouraging because I think we all agree that we need to invest in mental health and it's very important. I'm

looking at the material and it doesn't really explain again what's driving this \$10.5 million increase. Has there been a push within the department to diagnose more folks or doing more outreach in terms of what's driving this? I'm curious. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Both, it's diagnosed and testing that's being done. If I may, in the Fourth Assembly, suicide was determined as an emergency for the government to take action. I think a lot of that action speaks through this of putting an outreach to our population and saying that there are services available. It is one that I think we need to continue to promote. Through the diagnoses, testing, and through proper care, we will see a turn of events for our population. I encourage our members to continue raising that through this House and through the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question on this mental health heading: how many clients are we talking about in terms of clients that are receiving services outside of the territory? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 64. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does this number 64 compare with previous years, the trend? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the details in terms of the past, but it is growing and if we need to provide that further level of detail, we will be able to provide that, more probably best suited in the main estimates coming up. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to skip over to the Qikiqtarjuaq TB screening clinic. I think we would all agree that it's a very encouraging project and that's additional resources to address that need. It mentions supplies and equipment. I was wondering if any of that equipment would be kept by the department in order to deploy in other communities or if it's just small stuff that will probably stay in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, may I ask Deputy Stockley to respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Stockley.

Ms. Stockley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a combination actually. There will be some things left in the community like gauze and supplies like that that it would be much more costly to bring it out than it would be to leave it there and it will be used in the community. Big things like the mobile unit where people were going in and having their testing done will come back and be used again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Stockley. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that equipment that was included in the capital or is it... ? I'm just a bit lost here. If it's equipment, in my mind it should be under capital. Maybe just a clarification. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, may I ask Deputy Minister Stockley to respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Stockley.

Ms. Stockley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Much of the larger equipment actually came from the federal government. There was a big tent, for example, where a person would go in and produce a sputum sample and it was a negative pressure. There's machinery that takes all of the air out of it. Much of that came through the federal government. Other supplies like the bottles for sputum samples, gauze, the bedding, and things like that would have come through the Department of Health,

as per our normal processes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Stockley. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one final question or I think it's my final question. Under health care service delivery staffing, it mentions the issue of the use of agency nurses and contract nurse services. It mentions that the department has made significant progress in reducing the use of these services. Again, I'll just ask in terms of this year's expenses comparing it to previous years. What is the trend in terms of those expenses? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's about the same request. Instead of having agency nurses, we're having more of our in-house. It's almost the same for the supplementary appropriation. Comparing it from last year to this year, there are more in-house than there are agencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my final, final question. A breakdown of that \$8.6 million would be appreciated. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank

you, Mr. Chairman. The breakdown is for 2017-18. For permanent salaries, the shortfall was under surplus lapse of \$52.5 million; with casual wages going over by \$45.3 million; overtime, that's regular pay, premium, standby, and callback of over \$15.7 million; and agency nurses over \$0.1 million; with a total overage of \$8.6 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I just have one question and it's probably just a comment, but within the breakdown that you're talking about, I'll just pick up where Mr. Main just left off. I'm not getting into the nitty-gritty detail too deep. I know that if there is a nurse in Sanikiluaq that is dealing at midnight with a medevac... I don't want to look like I'm picking on anything in the way of overtime. I know that there is a need in the communities when we're looking at the staffing level, but out of the overtime out of this budget line, how much of it is by nurses and how much from other health care staff? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Almost all of it is by nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the minister himself was answering questions today on what steps the department is doing to staff some of

these nursing positions. I'm going to leave that lie.

I'm just going to make a comment. When we're looking at the types of appropriation, the health care staffing, the physician services contracts, mental health and treatment, medical travel, these are recurring supplementary appropriations that come forward every year. The numbers, even looking at mental health, the budget from what I can recollect didn't really change from last year, yet I think there was a \$6.8 or \$7.8 million supplementary appropriation last year.

When I spoke earlier about the budgeting process, what kinds of changes have been made, and the Minister of Finance did say that there haven't been any substantial changes and I truly believe there needs to be. When we're coming back and having to approve, to go through this exercise of repeated supplementary appropriations when we know that the need is higher than what the budgeted amount is for, there needs to be a real reset button on the budget process so that departments can bring forward budgets on their actual need, not just adding a percentage of growth from the year before and "Bob's your uncle."

That is just a comment, but I would like to hear the minister's comment back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I share those comments very well and it's something that we are seriously looking at as our Fifth

Assembly and as we move forward. I think some of the discussions we have been having is exactly that. There are some departments and Health is one and Justice is another that continually comes back and asks for supplementary appropriation. Something has to happen, and it's one that I'm very happy that we are having this discussion on budget process and something that I'll work very closely with my colleagues on this.

I know I'm answering some of these health-related issues. Right from the day that I got into the office, health has been a very topic of our discussions with finance. That's a lot of attention that we pay towards health. It's one that we really need to do something about in terms of the main estimates of making some corrections on some of the very obvious things that have repeated over the years. It doesn't necessarily have to change the budget process, but we should recognize these through our processes that are taking place.

It's going to be through this House that we make a number of efforts. One of our colleagues, in his regular member's statement, made very good observations in terms of the budget process and I applaud that too. It's one that we need to work together as 22 members. That's very needed. This 2017-18 overage, I think, illustrates on some of the challenges that we are going to be facing as members. I would want to really work closely with you, with the Premier and the mandate, and through our processes throughout of ensuring that we don't necessarily have to spend the time here because if we do know the actual appropriations that are needed by the departments, we really shouldn't be coming back unless there are

emergencies because we should know what our budgets are.

I wanted to make that comment and I thank you, Chair, and the members for giving an opportunity to state that. I thank you. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I applaud the minister in recognizing the need to kind of hit the reboot button.

I just wanted to make another comment. He mentioned Justice again being a repeat guest at this endeavour that we are sitting in right now and a lot of it stems from overtime. I'm talking about nursing. We're talking in the corrections system and there are a number of other departments that repeatedly come back for appropriations related to overtime. It's something that I brought up in the past and I'm going to continue to bring up for the next three and a half years. As we're dealing with capacity across this government, we recognize that there are challenges in filling certain professional and paraprofessional positions across the government.

Again, I think there needs to be a serious recognition from the Minister responsible for Human Resources on how to go about filling this government's capacity. Filling within the positions that we've got in our org. charts, if we actually filled the positions, we would see where our weaknesses and strengths are. Mr. Main today talked about how the strain it puts on certain professions within our government where it's creating burnout, it's creating

health issues for some of our staff where we need to take a step back and really evaluate what we can do to move forward to fill our government to capacity so that we know where our strengths and weaknesses are and we're not playing catch-up all the time.

Again, it's just a comment, and overtime is of interest to me and I would like to get some further information as we go forward on where some of the priorities and where some of the real triggers are so that we can look forward to finding solutions together. Just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Mikkungwak, you had a question?

Mr. Mikkungwak: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question here. On mental health, facilities, and treatment contracts, in your fourth bullet it indicates that although some charges are absorbed by Justice when medical travel is required, with that sentence, is that reflected in the \$10.5 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak, for your one question. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to make it short. Yes, it's included in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone, you had another question?

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My line of question falls back on both Mr. Main's and Mr. Hickes' questions. The last item you have

provided is the health care staffing budget shortfall of \$8.6 million. Now, you have identified the current budget of \$143 million and a requirement of \$151 million to come up with that \$8.6 million. Is that for all compensation and benefits for the entire department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, that is for all compensation and benefits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I'm looking at your year-end forecast of \$151 million in total compensation and benefits for the department, I find that is a considerable amount considering last year's compensation was \$126 million and the year before that it was \$120 million for the entire department. Is that \$151 million 100 percent accurate? Are you foreseeing an increase of \$25 million in salaries this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. I don't think any budgets are 100 percent accurate. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I mentioned earlier, (interpretation ends) the permanent salaries, the casual wages, overtime, agency nurses, if I add them all up, I think what we have tried to do and which is the reason for asking for

this \$8.6 million is it's our best estimate in terms of how much will be covered under the compensation and benefits. I think that's the closest that we can get it. I thank you, Chair, for recognizing that it can't be 100 percent accurate at this point until we get through our public accounts. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, to continue on the topic of compensation and benefits, today is March 19. There are about 12 calendar days left of the fiscal year. That means that there are roughly two pay cycles remaining. We have actuals of \$117 million and projected \$151 million. That led me to believe me that with the year-end so close, that's quite a large projection.

Moving on to the letter provided by the minister on page 4, you have provided a list of budgets for the programs and for medical travel, you had a budget of \$63.8 million at the beginning of the fiscal year for 2017-18. I'm just curious: what was the original main estimate budget for medical travel in the 2016-17 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Chairman, please bear with me. We're just trying to look for the 2016-17, which I don't have right in front of me. If you want, I can go get that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. I

would like to caution Mr. Lightstone that we are trying to deal with 2017-18 numbers, not 2016-17 or prior. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep that in mind. I'll disregard 2016-17.

The reason I was asking about medical travel budget for last year was I would like to enquire what the department is budgeting for medical travel in 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Again, we're working on numbers for 2017-18 and we're not trying to look forward to what's happening next year. I don't know if Mr. Akeegok wants... . He may not have the numbers, but Mr. Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think we're getting too ahead. I'll be doing a budget address in May. That will be part of the Budget Address for 2018-19. We just voted on an interim appropriation, which would be of status quo at 2017-18. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to reinforce the fact that there's an issue in our budget process and it's proven on the chart that the minister has provided us. There's a serious misalignment of budgets to actuals and it's going to be repeating every single year until it's corrected, which I'm hoping will be this upcoming fiscal year, which is why when the time

comes, I definitely will be requesting additional information when Health comes forward with their O&M request in 2018-19. I really would hate to see the Assembly continue to approve supplementary appropriations every year and just let it be as it has always been. Hopefully, when the department comes forward with their O&M request, they will have the detailed information down to the level that we require. Not a question, just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Qirngnuq, you had a question?

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I need clarification on one issue on medical travel. I'll speak in English so that it's clear. (interpretation ends) Medical travel, third bullet, from April to December, both scheduled and medical travel volumes have increased over the same period last year. (interpretation) Can the minister clarify to me as to why it's that way, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's talking about an increase in medical travel and it has been utilized more for people falling ill, more pregnant women travelling to give birth, and so on. There has been an increase in the number of patients going on medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, you had a question? No? Sorry. I thought you had your hand up for one more question.

We are on Health. Operations and Maintenance. We just finished health care, \$43,100,000. Moving to the bottom of the page. Total Department. \$49 million. Not Previously Authorized. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Going back to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation (Operation and Maintenance) 2017-2018, No. 3. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$56,602,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to Bill 3 in your legislative binder. Clause 1. Agreed?

Sorry. I've got to step backwards a little bit. We're on Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2017-2018*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2018. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. \$56,602,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 3 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 3 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. At this time, Minister Akeeagok, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Very quickly, I really appreciate the questions that we received, the commitment on the budgetary process that we envision for the upcoming main estimates, and the hard work that our staff have done to put together the best estimates that are in here. Through this, we will be able to revise our budgets. Thank you.

Before we get into the other bill, may I

ask one of the witnesses to be escorted out? For her wonderful work, her reward will be to leave the seat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Did you want a different witness in or no? Okay. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the witness out, please.

Moving on to Bill 4. Mr. Akeeagok, could you do your opening comments, please.

**Bill 04 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
4, 2017-2018 – Consideration in
Committee**

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear before you today to present Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2017-2018, No. 4*. Through this bill, the government is seeking an additional \$96,000 for 2017-18.

This supplementary appropriation will provide the Department of Community and Government Services with non-cash funding of \$96,000 to account for the adjusted interest costs due to delays in negotiations and subsequent capital lease signings with the Nunavut Construction Corporation for the Legislative Assembly building and the nine decentralized Government of Nunavut office buildings.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be very pleased for any questions or comments related to this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Are there any general comments on the minister's statement? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just new to this process. I would like to understand why this is required. Is CG&S unable to reallocate some funds from within their own capital budget for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an accounting requirement. It's to reflect the accounting of an interest. I think it's more to be transparent. It's not related to cash. The cash is available; it's just we need to account for what the interest rate was. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. On page 4 of Bill 4. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) 2017-2018, No. 4. Community and Government Services. Not Previously Authorized. Total Community Services. \$96,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) 2017-2018, No. 4. Schedule 1. Capital Appropriation. \$96,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to Bill 4 in your white binder. Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2018. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital Appropriation. \$96,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 4 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 4 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akeeagok, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Auditor General and all the accountants, I would like to thank everybody for passing this non-cash supplementary appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. In consideration that we have completed what we wanted to complete in Committee of the Whole, I will now recognize the clock and rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 2, 3, and 4 and would like to report that Bills 2, 3, and 4 are concluded and are ready for third reading. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Main. Thank you. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**Bill 02 – Interim Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018 – Third Reading**

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 2, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018*, to be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you. As the motion is carried, Bill 2 is now ready for assent.

Going back to the orders of the day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2017-2018 – Third Reading

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second...I move, seconded by...

>>Laughter

It has been a long day.

I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, that Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation*

(Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2017-2018, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried and Bill 3 is now ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Akeeagok.

Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018 – Third Reading

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried and Bill 4 is now ready for assent.

Mr. Clerk, will you determine if the Commissioner of Nunavut is now ready to enter the House to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Nellie Kusugak
(interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated. Welcome.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 1, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019*;
- Bill 2, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, April 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018*;
- Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2017-2018*; and
- Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018*.

Just a few short months ago, I presided over your swearing-in as Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Since that time, you have been working hard in your new roles to fulfill your important responsibilities to our territory and its people.

Tomorrow is the first official day of spring. As the light returns to our sky, we look forward to the future.

I hereby prorogue the First Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly and summon all members to meet in this Chamber at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow for the opening of the Second Session. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker's Statement

Speaker (interpretation): Before we get to Item 22, I wish to make a statement.

As Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council, I am extremely honoured to take this opportunity to announce this year's recipients of the Order of Nunavut.

On January 1, 2010, *The Order of Nunavut Act* came into force.

The objective of the order is to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the territory.

The order is the highest honour of Nunavut and takes precedence over all other orders, decorations, or medals conferred by the Government of Nunavut.

As of today, a total of 15 individuals have received the Order of Nunavut. They have been recognized for their achievements and contributions in a variety of fields, including public service, the arts, education, language promotion, spiritual leadership, and economic development.

I am pleased to announce that two individuals have been chosen this year to receive the Order of Nunavut: Ms. Betty Brewster and Mr. Ludy Pudluk.

I am very glad that Mr. Pudluk is in the gallery right now.

>>Applause

Welcome, Mr. Pudluk.

As members will be very much aware, Betty Brewster is a renowned interpreter/translator whose career has spanned several decades. In 2016 she was recognized by her peers for her lifetime of contributions to the profession with an Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit Language Award.

Ludy Pudluk served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories from 1975 to 1995. During his many years of public service, Mr. Pudluk represented the communities of the High Arctic and was instrumental in the movement that led to the creation of Nunavut.

I am pleased to announce that the investiture ceremony for Ms. Brewster and Mr. Pudluk will be held during the upcoming spring 2018 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. The ceremony will be held here in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and will be televised live across the territory.

Her Honour Commissioner Nellie Kusugak will preside over the investiture ceremony in her capacity as Chancellor of the Order, and I look forward to all Members of the Legislative Assembly joining us on what I anticipate will be a wonderful occasion.

We will now return to the business of the House. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 20:

1. Prayer

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

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:25*

