

**NUNAVUT HANSARD**

**UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2016**

**IQALUIT, NUNAVUT**

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Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 55

*Corrections:*

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**PLEASE RETURN ANY CORRECTIONS TO THE CLERK OR DEPUTY  
CLERK**

## 2016 Youth Parliament

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Neil Ammakiak**

(Amittuq)

**Justin Kalluk McDonald**

(Quttiktuq)

**Charlene Porter**

(Gjoa Haven)

**Hon. Elena Akammak-Nipisar**  
(Arviat South)  
*Minister of Environment and Minister  
of Community and Government  
Services*

**Elaine Lau**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

**Siku Rojas**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Hon. Felix Anablak**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Premier*

**Hon. Elisapee Maniapik**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Family Services and Minister  
responsible for the Qulliq Energy  
Corporation*

**Hon. Steffie Sinnisiak**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage and  
Minister responsible for the Nunavut  
Housing Corporation*

**Katrina Anderson**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

**Hon. Simon McDonald**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister of Health*

**Esuaktuk Temela**  
(South Baffin)

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq**  
(Aggu)  
*Minister of Education and Minister  
responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

**Hon. Devon Nahogaloak**  
(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Finance and Minister of  
Justice*

**Tasha Tigullaraq**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Alexander Cookie**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Hayley Totalik**  
(Netsilik)

**Jackson Ford**  
(Baker Lake)

**Jenny Nuluk**  
(Aivilik)

**Tanya Tugak**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield  
Inlet)

**Hon. Kelly Ineak**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)  
*Minister of Economic Development  
and Transportation*

**Jonathan Pitseolak**  
(Tununiq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, November 23, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Hon. Elena Akammak-Nipisar, Hon. Neil Ammaklak, Hon. Felix Anablak, Ms. Katrina Anderson, Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq, Mr. Alexander Cookie, Mr. Jackson Ford, Hon. Kelly Ineak, Mr. Justin Kalluk McDonald, Ms. Elaine Lau, Hon. Elisapee Maniapik, Hon. Simon McDonald, Hon. Devon Nahogaloak, Ms. Jenny Nuluk, Mr. Jonathan Pitseolak, Ms. Charlene Porter, Ms. Siku Rojas, Hon. Steffie Sinnisiak, Mr. Esuaktuk Temela, Ms. Tasha Tigullaraq, Ms. Hayley Totalik, Ms. Tanya Tugak.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Neil Ammaklak): I ask that the Member for Cambridge Bay lead us in a prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Thank you to the Member for Cambridge Bay. Please be seated.

Item 2. Speaker's Statement.

**Item 2: Speaker's Statement**

Good afternoon, Premier, members, and visitors in the gallery.

Before we proceed with the business of the day, I would like to say a few words.

Before I do, I would like to wish the Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Ford a very happy birthday.

>>*Applause*

My statement is on the risk of not having the community hall open to young people. As many of you are aware, not having the community hall open for the community can lead to boredom. Boredom can lead to crime, mental health issues like depression, and even suicide.

If the community hall was open seven days a week, it would provide a safe, social place to go which gives youth access to recreational activities and encourages healthy lifestyles. It appears that the solution lies in more core funding and employed positions to achieve this goal.

I think it would benefit all people of Nunavut if the Government of Nunavut, specifically the Department of Community and Government Services, made sure that each hamlet receives enough annual funding to keep community halls open, therefore running essential services and programs.

Resolving this issue can make communities stronger and Nunavut a better place for our future. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Item 3. Introduction of Members.

Before we proceed, I ask all members to introduce themselves to the visitors in the gallery and our TV audience.

Introductions will proceed around the Chamber starting on my left. Please rise when you are introducing yourself.

### **Item 3: Introduction of Members**

**Speaker:** I am Neil Ammaklak from the community of Hall Beach, representing George Qulaut, MLA for Amittuq and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Pitseolak.

**Mr. Pitseolak** (interpretation): I am Jonathan Pitseolak. I am from the community of Pond Inlet. I am representing Joe Enook, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Tununiq.

>>Applause

**Mr. Ford:** My name is Jackson Ford. I'm from the community of Baker Lake. I am representing Simeon Mikkungwak, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Baker Lake.

>>Applause

**Ms. Porter:** My name is Charlene Porter. I am from the community of Gjoa Haven. I am representing Tony Akoak, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the riding of Gjoa Haven.

>>Applause

**Ms. Nuluk:** My name is Jenny Nuluk. I am from the community of Naujaat. I am representing Steve Mapsalak, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Aivilik.

>>Applause

**Ms. Tugak** (interpretation): I am Tanya Tugak. I am from the community of Rankin Inlet. I am representing Tom Sammurtok, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet.

>>Applause

**Mr. Cookie:** My name is Alexander Cookie. I am from the community of Sanikiluaq. I am representing Allan Rumbolt, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Hudson Bay.

>>Applause

**Ms. Totalik:** My name is Hayley Totalik. I am from the community of Taloyoak. I am representing Emiliano Qirngnuq, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the riding of Netsilik.

>>Applause

**Ms. Lau:** My name is Elaine Lau and I am from the community of Iqaluit. I am representing Pat Angnakak, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Iqaluit-Niaqunngu.

>>Applause

**Mr. Kalluk McDonald:** My name is Justin McDonald. I am from the community of Resolute Bay. I am representing Isaac Shooyook, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Quttiktuq.

>>Applause

**Mr. Temela:** My name is Esuaktuk Temela. I am from the community of Kimmirut. I am representing David Joanasie, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of South Baffin.

>>Applause

**Ms. Anderson** (interpretation): My name is Katrina Anderson. I am representing Alex Sammurtok, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Rankin Inlet South.

>>Applause

**Ms. Tigullaraq:** My name is Tasha. I am from the community of Clyde River. I am representing Pauloosie Keyootak, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the riding of Uqqummiut. Thank you.



>> *Applause*

**Ms. Rojas:** My name is Siku Rojas. I am from the community of Iqaluit. I am representing Paul Okalik, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Iqaluit-Sinaa.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. Elisapee Maniapik** (interpretation): My name is Elisapee Maniapik. I am from the community of Pangnirtung. I am representing Johnny Mike who is the Member of Legislative Assembly for Pangnirtung.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. Steffie Sinnisiak:** My name is Steffie Sinnisiak. I am from the community of Arviat. I am representing George Kuksuk, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the riding of Arviat North-Whale Cove.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. Elena Akammak-Nipisar:** My name is Elena Akammak. I am from the community of Arviat. I am representing Joe Savikataaq, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Arviat South.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. Felix Anablak:** My name is Felix Anablak. I am from the community of Kugluktuk. I am representing Peter Taptuna, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Kugluktuk.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. Simon McDonald:** My name is Simon McDonald. I am from the community of Iqaluit. I am representing George Hickers, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Iqaluit-Tasiluk.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** My Name is Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq. I am from the community of Igloolik. I am representing Paul Quassa, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Aggu.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. Kelly Ineak:** My name is Kelly Ineak. I am from the community of Iqaluit. I am representing Monica Ell-Kanayuk, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Iqaluit-Manirajak.

>>Applause

**Hon. Devon Nahogaloak:** My name is Devon Nahogaloak. I am from the community of Cambridge Bay. I am representing Keith Peterson, who is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Cambridge Bay.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 4. Opening Address. Mr. Clerk, will you please determine if the Commissioner is prepared to enter the Chamber to address the House.

#### **Item 4: Opening Address**

**Commissioner Nellie Kusugak:** Good afternoon and welcome to you all, as well as to the people watching the televised proceedings.

I am delighted to be here with you today to deliver the Opening Address for the 2016 Nunavut Youth Parliament.

(interpretation ends) I would like to congratulate each and every one of you on your hard work this week.

You have demonstrated your commitment to improving the well-being of your territory and I am certain that your communities, families, and friends are very proud of your accomplishments.

(interpretation) As Members of the Sixth Nunavut Youth Parliament, you will have the opportunity to express the needs of your communities and to highlight the successes of your constituents.

(interpretation ends) Everyone who is in attendance today and everyone who is watching the proceedings on TV will have the opportunity to see your hard work in action.

(interpretation) During today's proceedings you will have the opportunity to make ministers' and regular members' statements, announce new government initiatives, and ask questions of the Premier and ministers.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth will also appear before you, the Members of the Youth Parliament, to discuss her office's roles and responsibilities. (interpretation) Today you will have the unique opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns directly with the office, whose mandate is to ensure that the rights and interests of children and youth are protected and advanced.

(interpretation ends) Each of you is an expert on the needs of Nunavut youth. With your expertise you will provide an invaluable perspective on matters affecting Nunavut youth to those offices whose responsibilities are to serve you.

(interpretation) I encourage you to speak with confidence during today's proceedings. I assure you that the members whose seats you are filling were as nervous on their first day as you may feel right now.

(interpretation ends) As representatives of your constituencies, you will demonstrate your ability to effectively express the needs of your communities, which is not an easy task. Know that being a leader is not easy. (interpretation) Leaders contribute their time and effort to improve the lives of others. Through their work all leaders inevitably face and overcome a number of challenges.

Some of you have written on what you envision Nunavut to look like in 10 years. Remember that it is your responsibility to bring these visions into reality.

Empower yourselves and your communities through lifelong learning and higher education.

Fuel your visions for a brighter territory by setting your own goals for its future, and never stop working to achieve these goals.

Your future opportunities are limited only by your imagination, determination, and commitment.

(interpretation) There are numerous opportunities available to Nunavummiut who wish to pursue further education and new careers.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut Arctic College offers a variety of programs for Nunavummiut who wish to pursue careers in health care, education, environmental science, language services, and business.

(interpretation) The Nunavut Trades Training Centre offers programs for Nunavummiut who wish to pursue careers in skilled trades.

(interpretation ends) Today you all take a step in fulfilling your responsibilities as citizens by committing time and effort to improve your communities, territory, and nation.

There are options that allow you to build a career around this civic duty, either in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Armed Forces, or the public service.

(interpretation) Many of you have travelled from your home communities to participate in today's event. In doing so, you have demonstrated courage and commitment to your goals.

(interpretation ends) There can be as much to learn at home as there is abroad, so I encourage you to explore the variety of programs available to each of you, whether here in Nunavut or abroad.

(interpretation) If you seek a thrilling tour over the arctic waters, you may be interested in the Students on Ice expeditions.

(interpretation ends) If you would like to develop work and volunteer experience, you may wish to spend a summer in the south with Northern Youth Abroad and consider taking part in this organization's trades or international programs.

(interpretation) Those of you who will be graduating soon may wish to challenge yourself and enrol in the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program, which prepares Inuit youth for education, training and career opportunities in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Take advantage of the support provided by your family, teachers, and even the friends you have made this past week.

(interpretation) If you choose to pursue any of these programs or other college or university studies, there are also a number of programs accessible to you to help support you financially.

(interpretation ends) Remember that your generation has grown with the world's technological advances. You have the opportunity to use your skills with technology to your advantage, in your pursuit of higher education, your future careers, and in your communities.

(interpretation) Remember that you are mentors to your peers and ambassadors for your community. (interpretation ends) It is important to remain focused on your studies and invest time and energy into volunteering and community work.

Consider spending an hour a week helping out at an elders facility, participating in a youth council, or tutoring students in younger grades. Enrol in recreational activities, including Junior Rangers, cadets, sports competitions, or community events.

(interpretation) I encourage each and every one of you to take advantage of the opportunities that you have before you and help to create stronger communities and a stronger Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Today you are all leading your peers by example. In the future you will lead your territory by your achievements.

(interpretation) After this week's experience some of you may even end up here in the future as elected MLAs.

(interpretation ends) It is important to remember that Nunavut's non-partisan, consensus style of government relies on respectful deliberation, debate, and discussion and I encourage you to participate in today's proceedings with the confidence that you have a voice and what you say can make a difference.

I look forward to a productive sitting today and wish all of you the best. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Back to the orders of the day. Item 5. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, please proceed.

### **Item 5: Ministers' Statements**

#### **Minister's Statement 001 – 6(1): Nunavummiut Circumpolar Education**

**Hon. Felix Anablak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce a circumpolar exchange program for youth. This program will allow Nunavummiut youth to travel throughout the circumpolar north to compare our culture with the cultures of other communities in the Arctic Circle. I am proud to work with the Minister of Culture and Heritage and the Minister of Education on this exciting program.

This program will allow youth to gain valuable education experience, to be an official ambassador of Nunavut, and to learn about our circumpolar neighbours.

This program will help and encourage high school students to stay in school and graduate. It will also help them to think about what they want to do in the future. It will also give youth the opportunity to be great role models for the territory of Nunavut.

This program will happen once a year for three weeks during the school year. One student per community will have the chance to participate. All the students will travel together in a charter.

To conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker, I wish to encourage Nunavummiut students to stay in school and apply for this program. We need more Nunavummiut students to graduate high school and lead this territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, please proceed.

**Minister's Statement 002 – 6(1): Youth Crime Prevention**

**Hon. Devon Nahogaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and the people of Cambridge Bay.

I am here to talk to you about youth crime prevention in Nunavut. I rise today to talk about the issue of youth crime. I am glad to say that the crime rate has gone down and I also want to keep doing the activities that prevent people from doing the crime.

Mr. Speaker, here are the problems that are causing youth crime:

- Youth are getting into drugs and alcohol.
- Youth having lack of family and friend time.
- They are sticking with the wrong people.

One of the activities that our department is leading with other departments to prevent youth crime is to:

- Help youth get ready for jobs after successfully finishing school
- Build ball courts, ice rinks, and skate parks to prevent youth from getting into trouble

Department of Justice staff will go to every school and tell the students about how they can get involved with these programs. It is important to have these programs because it keeps the youth out of trouble in a proactive way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, please proceed.

**Minister's Statement 003 – 6(1): New Performing Arts Centre**

**Hon. Kelly Ineak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon to the people in this Chamber and to all who are watching on TV.

I rise today to make a big announcement to support Nunavut's cultural industries.

To provide support for performing arts, music, and the culture of Nunavut, today I announce funding for a new performing arts centre. My department will provide money to build a multi-floor building to teach and perform musical instruments and traditional arts to Inuit and citizens.

The new performing arts centre will be located in Iqaluit and will give a chance to Nunavut artists to perform in front of a large audience. This building will encourage

people to learn music, promote and protect Inuit culture, and help to further develop Nunavut's tourism industries.

Mr. Speaker, this is a big infrastructure and cultural investment, but it will bring big benefits. This will be a good opportunity. I look forward to working with you all on this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Minister of Education, please proceed.

### **Minister's Statement 004 – 6(1): Teaching Language and Tradition**

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the teaching of language and traditions. As the Minister of Education, I want to talk about the issue of slowly losing our traditions and language.

In schools, we are introducing a program to let students go out hunting with an elder for at least a couple of days every month and learn how to skin animals and how to prepare hunting equipment like guns and harpoons and to learn about Inuit culture.

A perfect example is when a student catches an animal, the student will need to skin their catch as the elder talks to the student about how to cut the head of an animal.

(interpretation) As the minister today, I would like to announce that all the schools in Nunavut will have two or three days dedicated on a monthly basis where students will go out with an elder and that elder will be able to tell them stories about Inuit culture and other things. That elder would start with talking about the time before the Qallunaat came to Canada and they will describe the Inuit culture like an iceberg; it started a long time ago.

As a minister, I have a very strong understanding of our Inuit language as our mother tongue. Over the past number of years, part of our culture and language has been somewhat eroded and lost. As a result the Department of Education is working hard to keep our language and culture strong and able to stand on its own. That is why the teaching of Inuktitut is very important.

A good example is Aulajaaqtut, a school program that we used in high school. If you don't know what Aulajaaqtut is, I can explain what it is. Aulajaaqtut is divided into five modules and it's a teaching curriculum. We use those modules to learn about Inuit tradition and culture and the way they used to live, as well as the telling of stories like Kiviuq and other stories.

Using Aulajaaqtut, we learn about Inuit traditional culture before the modern ways came. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this program balances modern and old ways of life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Minister of Health, please proceed.

**Minister's Statement 005 – 6(1): Solutions for Nunavut's Health Care Issues**

**Hon. Simon McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to speak here today about the health of Nunavut and what I am doing to address some issues.

Mr. Speaker, as I have stated in the House on a number of occasions in the past, many Nunavummiut have to be sent on a plane to southern cities like Ottawa and Edmonton to receive good health care. Those trips cost a lot of money out of our budget. I would like to get the health centres in the smaller communities larger with more modern equipment and more doctors in those facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce a joint training program in Nunavut's education system to teach students how to examine health care patients and the correct way to perform surgery. This program will allow for in-territory health care intervention so that we know what is wrong with their bodies earlier rather than too late, but training is only part of the solution.

I have made proactive health care my priority as Minister of Health and this is reflected in my budget. To do this, I have invested \$15 million in new infrastructure and equipment needed for our doctors during the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Nunavut will benefit from this because we will save money from not having to send people to southern cities. There would be Nunavut doctors and Nunavut itself will grow and strengthen as a territory.

Mr. Speaker, when we have more doctors, bigger health care centres, and more advanced equipment, we will see serious illnesses being cured in Nunavut rather than in other provinces and territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Minister of Community and Government Services, please proceed.

**Minister's Statement 006 – 6(1): Environmental Protection**

**Hon. Elena Akammak-Nipisar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the future and the environment of Nunavut.

Our land is being destroyed because of large vehicles and people who use their monstrous machines unnecessarily. This has led to the destruction of plants, roots, and possibly other land properties that are essential to Nunavut. Moreover, we see people littering everywhere and there is garbage in and around our communities. As we all know, this is



harmful to wild animals and to the quality of our water bodies. There is a lot of destruction and these losses are destructive to the growth of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Environment, I encourage all Nunavummiut to protect the health and beauty of our lands and waters, that is, to keep our land clean and the way that it should be, to respect the tundra and respect the animals that are herbivores so that they can eat what they should be eating.

I would like to say to all Nunavummiut that we need to keep our land clean so that we can see the beauty of our land and make our communities better by putting garbage in the trash can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, please proceed.

### **Minister's Statement 007 – 6(1): Funding Announcement**

**Hon. Steffie Sinnisiak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon, colleagues, people of Nunavut and Arviat.

(interpretation ends) My department has identified three main issues related to housing. A lot of people are waiting to get a house, some houses need to be renovated, and more houses need to be built.

As the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I have worked hard for more funding so that we can build more houses in Nunavut.

Today I am happy to announce that I have successfully negotiated with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to increase their annual funding transfer to Nunavut and agreement past the year 2037.

In our territory the housing problem will be solved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Minister of Family Services, please proceed.

### **Minister's Statement 008 – 6(1): Pigunnaqtugut**

**Hon. Elisapee Maniapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to announce an exciting new program that the Department of Family Services is leading across the Government of Nunavut to train more Nunavummiut so that they can succeed in the workforce. This program is called *Pigunnaqtugut*, which means “we can do it.”

After doing some research, *Pigunnaqtugut* was developed to help increase the number of Nunavummiut who gain employment and to increase the number of Nunavummiut accessing employment.

*Pigunnaqtugut* will give people a chance to train on the job as well as receive their diploma as part of their time at work.

This program will benefit Nunavummiut by giving them opportunities to learn and participate in the labour force.

*Uqaqtii*, you are never too young or too old to learn new things. *Atii pigunnaqtugut!* (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Pitseolak, please proceed.

### **Item 6: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 001 – 6(1): The Need for a New Airport**

**Mr. Pitseolak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today here in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to reinforce to the Economic Development and Transportation Minister the need for a new airport in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, right now we only have a small runway made of gravel where only small planes can land to the high arctic. Mr. Speaker, the airport is right in front of the community.

It really needs to be bigger for it to allow jets to land and it also needs to be in a different location far from the community to decrease the pollution negatively impacting the community.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be a hub for the high arctic. Currently, Mr. Speaker, the hub here in Iqaluit in the lower arctic has too many delays and therefore the prices are very expensive for the constituencies on north Baffin and other communities near Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, you are sure to agree that this will be a benefit to my constituency as well as the communities in the High Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Ford, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 002 – 6(1): Error...Loading**

**Mr. Ford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the Internet. Before I speak about the Internet, I would like to wish a good afternoon to the people of Baker Lake, especially MLA Simeon Mikkungwak. I extend this wish to all the other students who attend us today. Welcome to the House.

Mr. Speaker, communication is a priority and the most efficient way to communicate today is through the Internet. The Internet in Baker Lake, in my opinion, is way too slow and we don't get enough gigabytes for the price we pay.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of government, we need more bandwidth for essential services, such as telehealth, GN communication, and education.

The Internet can help a lot of problems various people have, such as most videos are restricted when it can help you if you have to study for something like speech. It restricts what the government thinks is bad, but students one day find out about these things and have to learn about them.

Mr. Speaker, overall I would like to endorse in my opinion of what I experience and witness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Member for Gjoa Heaven, Ms. Porter, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 003 – 6(1): Working to Save Our Language**

**Ms. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about our language loss. We want to keep our language alive. In my opinion the government does not have enough programs to help my community protect our language from going away.

Another issue is that our community does not have that much to do all the time. They're bored, they're hopeless, they're sad and they know that there's nothing to do in my home town. That is why all teens are pretty much not doing anything. And that is how suicide is rising up in my community. We need a change. We need more programs to help us young adults have a healthy lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, you know if there's more fun activities in school more, more kids and youth would go and learn what life is really about. That's a way to help our youth from being sad, mad, and hopeless.

Mr. Speaker, you know if there were more fun activities in my school more, more kids and youth would go and learn what life is really about. That's the way to help youth from being sad, mad and hopeless.

This is what I want to see happen in my community. This is what I want the government to work on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Member for Aivilik, Ms. Nuluk, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 004 – 6(1): Mental Health Services**

**Ms. Nuluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House on mental health awareness and where to go for more information. It is very important that everyone knows the signs and symptoms of mental health disorders, where they can go and how they can get treatment.

The government has a website that gives information on mental health services. It is important that people know where to go and who to ask for help, because no one has to suffer mental health alone.

To access mental health services, call or visit your local health centre.

In Nunavut if you need to talk to someone you can call the Kamatsiaqtut Help Line.

I believe in mental health awareness is important because of the people in our community do not have that much information and resources on mental health issues.

We all have to work together to improve the health of our communities. Increased mental health awareness in our communities will help them grow stronger. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Tugak, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 005 – 6(1): Education and Mental Health**

**Ms. Tugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to discuss the issue of mental health and suicide in my constituency.

I have come to the realization that mental health is a big issue for Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, like many others, I have been touched by suicide. I believe through an increase in mental health education, we can prevent suicide in Nunavut. Statistical data shows that Nunavut's suicide rates are 10 times the national average. Nunavut is particularly vulnerable to suicide and mental illnesses because of the lack of mental health education.

It is of my opinion that the federal government is not providing enough funding to meet the responsibility for Nunavut to reach their potential.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will ask the Minister of Finance how he is allocating funds towards mental health in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Cookie, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 006 – 6(1): Sanikiluaq's Community Hall**

**Mr. Cookie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of Sanikiluaq's community hall.

The current community hall is not big enough. Sanikiluaq needs a new community hall because the current one is not spacious enough for our growing population. Sanikiluaq is growing and needs a new community hall so that the residents have space to do more activities for special occasions.

Events such as Christmas games, Canada Day and Nunavut Day allow people to celebrate together and build strength in our community.

We need a community hall that provides a safe and healthy environment where people can hold important events such as community feasts, wedding receptions, and funeral services.

It is very important to celebrate special occasions because it helps us to interact with other people and spend time together as a growing and happy community.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will have questions on this issue for the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for Netsilik, Ms. Totalik, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 007 – 6(1): More Entertainment, Less Vandalism**

**Ms. Totalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the need for a youth centre in Taloyoak.

There is too much vandalism in my community. I know that the youth in my community are bored and don't have much to do. This would help the youth with boredom and reduce the rate of vandalism in my community.

Mr. Speaker, you may have heard that last year in my community there was a break-in in one of our school supply sea cans. As a result we lost a year's worth of school supplies. This proves that youth in my community need sports and entertainment. If youth are busy

with those activities they will not turn to crime. I live in Taloyoak but I'm sure it is the same in Kugaaruk.

These are the reasons why I think we need youth centres in both Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. At an appropriate time I will ask the Minister of Community and Government Services about building youth centres in Taloyoak and Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Lau, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 008 – 6(1): The Need to Increase the Number of Social Housing Units**

**Ms. Lau:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today address an issue that is close to my heart and that is the wellbeing of impoverished families.

Mr. Speaker, in the year of 2013, the Nunavut Housing Corporation stated that about 50 percent of the population is in need of housing. This means that one out of every two people in Nunavut is suffering from a lack of available and affordable housing.

Each year, the costs to homeowners and our most vulnerable, those in social housing, have gone up and it is becoming ever more difficult to meet the daily needs of a family. Meanwhile, the cost of caring for a family increases along with the costs for social housing, yet the social assistance allowance has not increased.

Mr. Speaker, the continuous increase in housing-related costs is affecting the health and safety of Nunavut's families. As a result of this issue, people are suffering from hardships, hunger, and depression.

The lack of social housing units within the communities is a long-term problem. This is an issue that must be improved, as these kinds of financial challenges can cause families to disintegrate. As a coping mechanism for the tremendous financial stress among families, there might be an increase of substance abuse and suicidal thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, today I will be asking the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to increase the number of social housing units within all the communities in Nunavut and at the same time change the rent scale for social housing to better reflect today's realities.

With the increased number of social housing units, we could help to reduce family stress and overcrowding pressures. At the same time finding a more equitable rent space will allow families to keep more funds in their pockets to pay for their basic necessities.

Children who have dropped out of school in hopes to support their families will once again have the opportunity to complete their formal education and contribute to their territory.

With the new building of social housing units, there will also be an increase in local employment at the same time as improving the quality of living for all Nunavummiut, as there might be a reduction of drug and alcohol abuse and suicidal thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, we must build more social housing units. We must work together to improve all these social issues across Nunavut. We must arrive at consensus in agreeing to build more social housing in the upcoming years and at the same time reduce the cost to those who occupy our social housing units.

This is an issue that must be resolved in this territory, bringing a united home that is full of happiness, peace, and harmony. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. McDonald, please proceed.

#### **Member's Statement 009 – 6(1): High Rates of Smoking**

**Mr. McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the high rates of smoking in Quttiktuq.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see a new building in my community like an arcade or a theatre. I believe this would distract teenagers from smoking and taking alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, it breaks my heart when I see children smoking behind the old Co-op building.

When I was young, I would see teenagers drinking.

It is my belief that new activities in my community would keep people from drinking.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will raise this issue with the responsible minister.

Mr. Speaker, it would give me great pleasure to see these changes happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for South Baffin, Mr. Temela, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 010 – 6(1): Youth Activities in Kimmirut**

**Mr. Temela:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the need for a youth centre in the community of Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see more activities for the younger kids because they only get an hour of sports at the Akavak Centre and nothing for them on the weekends as the centre is closed.

Mr. Speaker, the school gym is open four hours a night. It is the only gym in the community. This space needs a new floor. The lines are stuck with old tape.

Mr. Speaker, kids aged 6 to 8 can use the gym for only one hour and kids aged 9 to 12 get only one hour. Teenagers get two hours a night. Mr. Speaker, that's not enough.

Mr. Speaker, with nothing to do, young people are getting in trouble, breaking windows, and causing vandalism.

Mr. Speaker, we need more space for youth activities. We also need more equipment for sports. We need new soccer nets, hockey nets, goalie equipment, and hockey sticks.

Mr. Speaker, the government needs to invest in sports for our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Member for Rankin Inlet South, Ms. Anderson, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 011 – 6(1): Rehabilitation Centre**

**Ms. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of drug and alcohol abuse in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, drug and alcohol abuse is an issue throughout Nunavut. I think that building a rehab centre in Nunavut will help stop the cycle of alcohol abuse and will help the children of Nunavut to grow up in a safer environment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see a rehab centre that is available to everyone who needs it, even if they can't afford it. I believe that there should be qualified mental health workers in the health centres who are specialized in addictions services.

A rehab centre in my community could help to reduce crime rates, create stronger families, and lower the rate of underage people who abuse drugs and alcohol.

The rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in Nunavut children is very high, and I believe that a rehab centre can help to reduce this rate.



Unfortunately a number of families in Rankin Inlet suffer from malnourishment and poverty because of drug and alcohol addictions. It is a known fact that children who grow up in such environments are more likely to suffer from addictions as adults. I believe that the creation of a rehab centre in Nunavut could stop that cycle.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will have questions on this issue for the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Tigullaraq, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 012 – 6(1): Better School, Better Life**

**Ms. Tigullaraq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my Member's Statement, I would like to recognize my mother, Geela Tigullaraq, who is watching this Assembly back home in Clyde River. I would like to thank my colleague, Ms. Lau, for her help over the past three days.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request a new school for Clyde River with more classes and classrooms.

Recently there was dirty, black water in my school and I feel that the kids need a healthy school to learn in.

Mr. Speaker, although the water problem is fixed, I think that we still need a new school because our school is over 20 years and it's covered in graffiti.

Mr. Speaker, furthermore, there are not enough classrooms, which is why our sewing class is in a very small room in the library and there are classes held in the school kitchen due to the space issue.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we need more subjects at school, such as health classes, cooking classes, and classes to learn how to buy houses and do taxes. I think that if we had these extra classes, the graduation rate would go up and many more students will go to university with the knowledge of taking care of themselves and know how to buy their own houses and cars.

Mr. Speaker, I really hope that this issue we have with the school will be solved.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will ask the responsible minister how they will plan to improve the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Rojas, please proceed.

**Member's Statement 013 – 6(1): Concerns about Nunavut's Education System**

**Ms. Rojas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remind everyone of the huge issue we have in Nunavut: low graduation rates.

The graduation rate isn't necessarily low, but for Inuit graduation it's horrendous. Inuit are dropping out, not graduating and not being employed. This is a huge issue we have in Nunavut.

We have been putting so much effort in trying to keep students in school, yet nothing has changed. We still have the lowest graduation rate in Canada.

I am disappointed to say from my own experience that some of our teachers in Nunavut don't even understand the information they are trying to teach us youth.

Also, our Inuktitut courses aren't working. The way we are trying to rebuild our disappearing language is not effective.

Our Inuktitut classes have to change the way they are teaching if we want our language to be spoken years from now.

I know I want my future grandchildren to be able to hear it, understand it, and speak it, but that can't happen until we get this generation to graduate.

This issue is extremely important because it affects how youth think of themselves.

Mr. Speaker, we need more Inuktitut in our classes. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 7. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for...(no audio)...

**Item 7: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Pitseolak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to recognize Siobhan Moss for helping us out and supporting all us of during the Youth Parliament. She was very helpful and I'm very thankful she was around. I got to finish my work because of her.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Siobhan.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Ford, please proceed.

**Mr. Ford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to be able to recognize Mark, who took care of me. He chaperoned me on my trip here and he will do so on the way back home. Welcome to the 2016 Youth Parliament.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Tugak, please proceed.

**Ms. Tugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to recognize my aunt, Sarah Tugak, who is here to support the 2016 Youth Parliament. Welcome Sarah.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Cookie, please proceed.

**Mr. Cookie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to recognize Karen. This person is my friend and I am happy that she is here to support all of us during this Youth Parliament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for Netsilik, Ms. Totalik, please proceed.

**Ms. Totalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to recognize Becky Kilabuk. This person is my friend and I am happy that she is here to support all of us during the Youth Parliament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Ms. Anderson, please proceed.

**Ms. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to be able to recognize Kathy Hanson. This person is a family friend. Welcome to the 2016 Youth Parliament.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. McDonald, please proceed.

**Hon. Simon McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to be able to recognize my parents and family members here to see me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Member for Aggu, Mr. Arnatsiaq, please proceed.

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my family and friends back at home watching the proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Member for Arviat South, Ms. Akammak-Nipisar, please proceed.

**Hon. Elena Akammak-Nipisar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mark Oklaga, who helped me and brought me here to Iqaluit to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Item 7. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hands if you have questions for the ministers.

>>*Laughter*

Member for Tununiq, please proceed.

### **Item 8: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 001 – 6(1): Airport in Pond Inlet**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker I believe if the hub was in my community it would decrease the cost of plane seats, lessen delays and lower the cost for cargo in my constituency and for the other communities near my community.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell me if there is a plan to make a new airport in my constituency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, please proceed.

**Hon. Kelly Ineak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Tununiq for the question. Yes there is a plan to make a new airport in the Member for Tununiq's

constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Tununiq, your first supplementary question. Please proceed.

**Mr. Pitseolak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear that. There's something in my ear can you repeat that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, can you please repeat that.

**Hon. Kelly Ineak:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yes there is a plan to make a new airport in the Member for Tununiq's constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Tununiq, your first supplementary question. Please proceed.

**Mr. Pitseolak:** She answered my question.

>>*Laughter*

**Speaker:** Please raise your hand if you have any questions for the ministers. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Ford, please proceed.

### **Question 002 – 6(1): Caribou Transboundary Management**

**Mr. Ford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier, Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker today I rise to raise concerns around the transboundary issues with regard to the Beverly Qamanirjuaq caribou herd, specifically having to do with land use planning across the multi-jurisdiction caribou ranges. This includes parts of the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions of Nunavut.

Can the minister tell me if there is a plan for if the caribou runs into the Kitikmeot region from the Kivalliq region and is caught from a citizen of the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Community and Government Services... . Premier, please proceed.

**Hon. Felix Anablak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. Caribou and other wildlife do not care about boundaries. Caribou ignore political and administrative regions we have setup. Further Inuit harvesting rates are Nunavut-wide. Inuit have every right to harvest that caribou if the current rules allow, which they do in this instance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Premier. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Cookie, please proceed.

### **Question 003 – 6(1): Need for a New Community Hall in Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Cookie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my Member's Statement, the community hall in Sanikiluaq is not spacious enough for the residents in the community. The community is growing and needs a new community hall so that the people will have more space to do more activities during special occasions.

Can the minister indicate what specific discussions his department has had with the Municipality of Sanikiluaq concerning the possibility of constructing a new community hall in that community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Minister of Community and Government Services, please proceed.

**Hon. Elena Akammak-Nipisar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Cookie, for the question. As the Minister of Community and Government Services, I would like to say that in order to get a new community hall for Sanikiluaq, we would like to get all the materials and things that we need so that we can make a new community hall.

I ask all the people of Sanikiluaq to wait patiently for the things that they need in order to stay young and active. This means that they need to wait for the new things to come in so that they can start making the things that the community needs.

I look forward to working with the Municipality of Sanikiluaq on this important community matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Member for Aivilik, please proceed.

### **Question 004 – 6(1): What Can You Do To Help?**

**Ms. Nuluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Family Services.

In my Member's Statement, I mentioned about mental health services. Can the minister tell me how social workers work with families who have mental health issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Minister of Family Services, please proceed.

**Hon. Elisapee Maniapik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and MLA for Aivilik, for the question. Social workers work with families who have mental health issues by providing family support, including counselling, family planning, and resource recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Member for Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet, please proceed.

#### **Question 005 – 6(1): Funding Mental Health**

**Ms. Tugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance.

As I mentioned before in my Member's Statement, mental health is a big issue for Nunavut. All of us here have been affected by suicide.

I know money is needed for more programs regarding mental health in Nunavut. I believe that more funding for mental health programs in Nunavut can have a big impact on Nunavummiut and this will help us grow the territory.

Will the Minister of Finance commit to asking the federal government for more funds for mental health in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Finance, please proceed.

**Hon. Devon Nahogaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and MLA for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, for the question. Mr. Speaker, I will ask the federal government for more money to make places for mental health patients in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Member for Gjoa Haven, please proceed.

**Question 006 – 6(1): Losing Our Language**

**Ms. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

We need our language because, without it, our next generation won't be able to understand our elders.

The department's business plan states that its Community Inuit Language Initiative Project provides grants and contributions that support community-based initiatives that support preservation, use and promotion of Inuktitut.

What is the government going to do to prevent our language loss? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Minister of Culture and Heritage, please proceed.

**Hon. Steffie Sinnisiak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the MLA for Gjoa Haven, for the question. An effective way to prevent language loss is by talking to elders because they keep their language. I work with the hamlets in communities across Nunavut to bring the elders and youth together so that they can keep their language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for Gjoa Haven, your first supplementary question. Please proceed.

**Ms. Porter:** ...(no audio)...Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Member for Gjoa Haven, please repeat the question.

**Ms. Porter:** To the Minister of Culture and Heritage, is there a plan for this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Culture and Heritage, please proceed.

**Hon. Steffie Sinnisiak:** Yes we have a plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for Gjoa Haven, your final supplementary question, please proceed.

**Ms. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question for the Minister of Culture and Heritage: do you work with the Minister of Education about this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Culture and Heritage, please proceed.

**Hon. Steffie Sinnisiak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will work with the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Member for Netsilik, please proceed.

**Question 007 – 6(1): Need for Youth Centres**

**Ms. Totalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As I said, Taloyoak needs a youth centre because this would help with boredom and reduce the rate of vandalism. Taloyoak's Integrated Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plan states that building a youth centre was one of their top priorities.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell me if building youth centres in Nunavut is a priority, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Community and Government Services, please proceed.

**Hon. Elena Akammak-Nipisar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ms. Totalik, for the question. As the Minister of Community and Government Services I would like to say that the Government of Nunavut is working on the priority of having a youth centre in Taloyoak and it would take at least about three months to build one because we need to order the things that the youth centre needs. Yes, the Government of Nunavut feels that youth centres are a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Netsilik, your first supplementary question, please proceed.

**Ms. Totalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell me when the department will build a youth centre in Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Community and Government Services, please

proceed.

**Hon. Elena Akammak-Nipisar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Working with the other ministers it would at least take about I don't know maybe summer, I guess.

>>*Laughter*

Whenever Taloyoak is ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Netsilik, your final supplementary question, please proceed.

**Ms. Totalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Community and Government Services think about working on a budget for the youth centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Community and Government Services, please proceed.

**Hon. Elena Akammak-Nipisar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ms. Totalik for the question. I think the youth centre would at least cost about \$10,000 to make one or to get the orders and we're thinking about the budget right now. We don't really know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the minister. Member for Quttiktuq, please proceed.

### **Question 008 – 6(1): Reduction in Crime**

**Mr. Kalluk McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice.

As indicated in my Member's Statement, I have great concern with the high rates of smoking and drinking in my constituency.

I believe that a decrease in crime rates will occur if there are more activities for youth. This means that we need more recreational facilities for youth centres in Nunavut.

Has the Department of Justice done a study on linking youth crime rates for the lack of activities or boredom? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Justice, please proceed.

**Hon. Devon Nahogaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the MLA for the question. Mr. Speaker like I said in my minister's statement, I am trying to reduce youth crime. Here are my solutions for youth crime.

My solution is to help youth get ready for jobs after successfully finishing school, build ball courts, ice rinks, skate parks and let them play their favourite sports to prevent them from getting into trouble. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Quttiktuq, your first supplementary question, please proceed.

**Mr. Kalluk McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister explain how the department works with young people who get in trouble with the law? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Justice, please proceed.

**Hon. Devon Nahogaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear that. Could he repeat his question?

**Speaker:** Member for Quttiktuq, can you please repeat your question.

**Mr. Kalluk McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister explain how the department works with young people who get in trouble with the law? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, please proceed.

**Hon. Devon Nahogaloak:** I work with the youth justice committees and the hamlet justice committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Quttiktuq, your final supplementary question, please proceed.

**Mr. Kalluk McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister explain what kind of crime prevention programs his department is currently offering? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, please proceed.

**Hon. Devon Nahogaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said in my statement, we're going to be building ball courts, ice rinks, skate rinks, and the sports that they like to play. The other solution is getting them ready for their jobs after successfully finishing school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Member for South Baffin, please proceed.

**Question 009 – 6(1): Need for More Space in the Qaqqalik School**

**Mr. Temela:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education.

In my Member's Statement I talked about the need for more space and equipment for the youth to play sports.

Can the Minister of Education tell me if he could make the Qaqqalik School's equipment room any bigger? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Education, please proceed.

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and MLA for South Baffin, for the question. The question may affect all of Nunavut. I will ask the Minister of Finance to help me out with this question. We could make any school gymnasium and equipment room bigger in Nunavut. Member for South Baffin, I have answered your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for South Baffin, your first supplementary question, please proceed.

**Mr. Temela:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Education commit to planning on making the Qaqqalik School's gym bigger? If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Education, please proceed.

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can you please repeat the question. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Member for South Baffin, can you please repeat your question.

**Mr. Temela:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Education commit to planning on making the Qaqqalik School's gym bigger? If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Education, please proceed.

>>*Laughter*

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Member for South Baffin for the question. We have to look at it first before

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) we have to check on it first. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for South Baffin, your final supplementary question. Please proceed.

**Mr. Temela:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to making a recreational building for the older students to play sports in Kimmirut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Education, please proceed.

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I keep forgetting my answer.

>>*Laughter*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, please proceed.

### **Question 010 – 6(1): The Need for an Increase of Social Housing Units in Nunavut**

**Ms. Lau:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The lack of social housing units in Nunavut is affecting the health and safety of Nunavut's families. As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is responsible for the construction of social housing units.

What are some of the actions that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is taking to provide more social housing units for our impoverished and overcrowded families? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, please proceed.

**Hon. Steffie Sinnisiak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu for the question. As I mentioned in my Minister's Statement, we have more money for housing, so we will be able to build more social housing units in every community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, your first supplementary question, please proceed.

**Ms. Lau:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us how often the Nunavut Housing Corporation conducts an analysis regarding the needs for social housing units and basic rental costs for these units considering the ever increasing inflationary cost for families in all of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, please proceed.

**Hon. Steffie Sinnisiak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu for the question. Once a year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, your final supplementary question, please proceed.

**Ms. Lau:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The lack of social housing units is a long-term problem. Can the minister indicate what specific future steps the Nunavut Housing Corporation is taking to ensure that there will be an increased number of affordable social housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Item 8. Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, please proceed.

**Hon. Steffie Sinnisiak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and MLA for Niaqunngu. I am happy to work with the members across us to address these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Member for Rankin Inlet South, please proceed.

**Question 011 – 6(1): Need for a Rehab Centre in Nunavut**

**Ms. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that people who are sent to rehabilitation centres outside of Nunavut lack the support from family and friends that they need in order to properly rid their addictions. This has led to many people to fall back into addictions when they come back to Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if a rehab centre was built in Nunavut, individuals would be more successful after coming out of the rehab centre.

Will the minister commit to including the construction of a rehabilitation centre in Nunavut in his department's capital plan for the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Health, please proceed.

**Hon. Simon McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and MLA for Rankin Inlet South, for the question. Yes, I do agree with the MLA and I will be committed to building a rehabilitation centre in Nunavut. As you know, it takes time and money for these types of projects. When we do this, I will be working with my colleague, Minister responsible for Education and Arctic College, to train counsellors for the future of the rehab centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Member for Uqqummiut, please proceed.

**Question 012 – 6(1): Programs for Adults**

**Ms. Tigullaraq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is not related to my Member's Statement, but my question is for the Department of Family Services.

Adults who can't support themselves receive social assistance, which is provided by the Department of Family Services.

My question is: what programs does the Department of Family Services offer adults who have finished high school but don't know how to take care of themselves? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Family Services, please proceed.

**Hon. Elisapee Maniapik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and MLA for Uqqummiut, for the question. Adults who have finished high school but don't know how to take care of themselves have different needs. The Department of Family Services offers several ways to improve life skills. The best thing to do is to contact Family Services in your community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, please proceed.

#### **Question 013 – 6(1): Education Supporting Inuktitut Language**

**Ms. Rojas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education.

In my Member's Statement I rose to talk about the low graduation rates in Nunavut. Specifically I talked about the fact that our Inuktitut courses do not appear to be producing Inuktitut speakers.

Can the minister please tell me how the department plans on incorporating Inuktitut in a more efficient and effective way within the school curriculum? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Education, please proceed.

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and MLA for Iqaluit-Sinaa, for the question. As the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, I am pleased to say that we will strengthen the Inuktitut component of our Nunavut Teacher Education Program. Having Inuktitut-speaking teachers from Nunavut will go a long way to have more Inuktitut in our school curriculum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, your first supplementary question, please proceed.



**Ms. Rojas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will the *Education Act* be amended to ensure that our students have the opportunity to learn Inuktitut and make our language stronger? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Education, please proceed.

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry but I didn't understand the question well. Please ask the question again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, please repeat your question.

**Ms. Rojas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was: when will the *Education Act* be amended ensuring that our students have the opportunity to learn Inuktitut and make our language stronger. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Education, please proceed.

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are still working on the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, your final supplementary question. Please proceed.

**Ms. Rojas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Education tell me how he will be getting Inuktitut language speakers to teach Inuktitut in our schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hand if you have questions. Minister of Education, please proceed.

**Hon. Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to say that we will strengthen the Inuit component for a Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

Having Inuktitut speaking teachers from Nunavut will go a long way to have more Inuktitut in our school curriculum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hands if you have questions for the minister. Member for Rankin Inlet South, please proceed.

#### **Question 014 – 6(1): Need for a Rehab Centre in Nunavut**

**Ms. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first supplementary question is for the Minister of Health.

It will take many years to build a functioning rehabilitation centre. Until this process is finished what is your department doing to help Nunavummiut with their addictions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Health, please proceed.

**Hon. Simon McDonald:** Mr. Speaker, can you ask her restate her question? I was being interrupted while she was asking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Rankin Inlet South, please repeat your question.

**Ms. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will take many years to build a functioning rehab centre. Until this process is finished what is your department doing to help Nunavummiut with their addictions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Health, please proceed.

**Hon. Simon McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are trying to help them with counselling for now and that's all we're doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Rankin Inlet South, your final supplementary question. Please proceed.

**Ms. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, will the minister provide this House with an update on the progress of building a rehab centre in Nunavut prior to the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Health, please proceed.

**Hon. Simon McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Item 8. Oral Questions. Please raise your hand if you have questions for the ministers. Item 9. Motions. Item 10. Consideration in Committee of the Whole. Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth will be appearing before

Committee of the Whole. Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole we will take a 15-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:16 and resumed at 15:39*

**Item 9: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters:  
Appearance of the Representative for Children and Youth**

**Chairman:** I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Member for Pangnirtung.

**Hon. Elisapee Maniapik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for unanimous consent to go back to Recognition of Visitors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Member for Pangnirtung, please proceed.

**Revert to Item 7: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Elisapee Maniapik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Pangnirtung people. (interpretation) They are from Pangnirtung like me and we are here (interpretation ends) for a different reason. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Back to the orders of the day.

Good afternoon. I would like to welcome Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth, Ms. McNeil-Mulak, and her staff to the Sixth Nunavut Youth Parliament.

Today the Youth Parliament is pleased to have the opportunity to discuss issues relating to the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth's roles, responsibilities, mandate, and activities. I am sure that it will be a very informative and interesting discussion.

For the benefit of our interpreters and recording systems, I ask members and witnesses to always go through the Chair when asking or responding to questions and interventions and to wait until I invite you to speak before activating your microphone.

Ms. McNeil-Mulak, please proceed with your opening comments.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I would like to introduce Sharon Reashore, who is accompanying me today. Sharon is the director of child and youth advocacy services at our office.

Good afternoon, everyone. Let me begin by saying what a pleasure it is for me to be here with you today.

One of the first youth events that I actually attended after my appointment in June 2014 was the Youth Parliament session that was held in November of that year.

As I set out in those early days to establish an organization for young people, I remember feeling very fortunate to sit in this Chamber and listen to youth describe the issues that mattered most to them and their communities. Today I have this wonderful opportunity to speak with and hear directly from you.

Hearing about issues from young people has so many benefits. When adults open themselves up to hearing directly from youth, they are really empowering children and youth to become active, responsible citizens and active, responsible citizens are people who can make change happen.

For organizations hearing directly from young people can actually improve our way of decision-making. This is because your insights come from lived experiences. In this way they are unique and can lead to decision-making that reflects what you actually need.

Sharing your opinions is also a matter of your rights as protected under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Canada signed this international agreement 25 years ago and we celebrate this agreement each year on November 20 by marking National Child Day.

The convention guarantees young people all around the world the same rights, including the right to share what you think with others, the right to information, and the right for adults, including governments, to hear and consider your views on issues that affect you. It is fitting that we are here with you today just days after National Child Day, engaged in a conversation about your rights and hearing about issues that matter most to you.

I actually had an opportunity last week to gain a glimpse into many of these issues by reading the essays that you submitted to become youth parliamentarians. In the essays you explored one of two very important questions: what makes a good leader and your vision for Nunavut at 25 years old. I was very impressed by your essays.

I would like to share with you as well as those watching and listening across the territory today just a little of what I learned.

The essays that focused on leadership painted a picture for me of what you would like to see your leaders here in Nunavut characterize; leaders who remain open to learning from others, leaders who are humble enough to ask for help when they need it, leaders who are determined, kind, fair, positive during difficult circumstances, and who are good listeners.

Many of the essays that focused on your vision for Nunavut at 25 years highlighted the theme of education and emphasized the need for education in Inuktitut, education that is steeped in culture and history, education that better teaches you about mental and sexual health.

You envisioned more recreation facilities and activities for young people in your communities, more support, and better access to services. You wrote about economic growth and you connected it to improving Nunavut's infrastructure and developing the territory's art-based economy while also focusing on the protection of the land and waters that provide for us.

Your essays serve as a valuable source of information for myself and the team at the RCY office. You have my commitment that the thoughts and ideas expressed by you will be documented and discussed by our team as we progress with our advocacy work and the development of our office.

In addition to reading your essays we also had a wonderful opportunity yesterday to meet informally when you visited our office in Iqaluit. During your visit we began sharing information with you about the role of our office and today I am very eager to continue that conversation and I look forward to your questions and comments throughout the afternoon.

As I mentioned during your visit, our office is independent of the Government of Nunavut. Our office exists to ensure that the Government of Nunavut provides young Nunavummiut with the services that they need to support their wellbeing and their rights under the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. All of our work is guided by the convention, by the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, by national advocacy standards, by Inuit societal values and by the voice of the child; what you think.

Our work doesn't replace that of the Government of Nunavut. Instead, we make sure that government services, programs, policies and legislation that affect you is working as it should for you.

Our office works in four main areas; individual advocacy, systemic advocacy, reviews of critical injuries and deaths and public awareness. As a new office with a very broad mandate, we have taken a phased-in approach to developing these four areas of our work and we have made individual advocacy and public awareness our initial priority.

Individual advocacy is when our office works one on one with a child, youth or family. The Government of Nunavut, as we know, provides many programs and services to support children and youth. However, despite best intentions, some times issues occur; a child can't access a program he needs, a youth finds a government service isn't supporting her the way it was intended to.

In cases like these, our office can provide individual advocacy support. What this looks like depends on a young person's unique needs and situation. We can give information,

we can coach a young person how to advocate for his or herself, and work with a child who needs advocacy intervention.

Advocacy intervention is when one of our staff works directly with you or your family and a government service provider. A service provider can be a social worker, a health worker, a probation officer, a mental health counsellor, or a teacher, any adult, really, who provides a Government of Nunavut service to young people.

Together we work to ensure that a young person's rights are supported, their opinions are heard and the issue is resolved.

Systemic advocacy is another key area of our work. As we discussed yesterday, it begins when our office identifies a broad issue involving the Government of Nunavut that is affecting many young people at one time. Systemic advocacy often results in our office issuing recommendations to government to change a service, program, policy or even a law.

Our office can also investigate when a child or youth receiving government services dies or experiences a serious injury. These reviews are really about making changes to prevent similar events from occurring again in the future and they require a thoughtful and well-established program to ensure they are conducted in a way that is both thorough and sensitive to the families that are involved. For these reasons we are currently developing this area of our work with particular care.

Lastly, our office has a responsibility to raise Nunavummiut's awareness of child rights and the role of our office. Our public awareness work can take many forms. Some examples include presentations and outreach activities with children, youth, youth serving organizations, and government service providers in communities in Nunavut.

All of this work is very important but I believe that some of the best work that we do at our office is when we coach young people and their families how to advocate for themselves. There is nothing more empowering than understanding what rights you have and learning how to effectively and respectfully harness that knowledge to use your own voice to advocate for yourself. There is no doubt that this is one of the most powerful aspects of our work.

To end I would like share a line from an essay that I read which states, "When I close my eyes to think of the future, I see Inuit and youth being heard." At the RCY office we share this vision which is why we are here today, to listen to what matters most to you as young Nunavummiut, and to carry that forward in our work as we represent your voice to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. McNeil-Mulak. Please raise your hand if you have questions for Ms. McNeil-Mulak. Member for South Baffin, please proceed.

**Mr. Temela:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On your website it talks about individual advocacy. My question for the Representative for Children and Youth is: can you explain what advocacy really is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. What advocacy is, is speaking up and having the ability to speak up about your rights. It involves feeling that you have the ability to have a conversation with people, to discuss matters that are important to you.

It's very important in terms of advocacy to not only know your rights, but what comes with rights is a key right to respect other people. When you're advocating for yourselves, it's important to be clear, to support your thinking, to know your rights, but it's also important as well to have that in the back of your head that that comes with a big responsibility, advocating and using your voice in a positive way for yourselves. A big responsibility is respecting the rights of other people.

If you're advocating for yourself with a friend for the situation you're in, if you're advocating with a teacher or even with a family member, it's always important to be clear on what you're advocating for and what you are working towards, what you want to use your voice to ask for or what discussion you want to engage in to work to where you need to get, and to be mindful to do that in a very respectful way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Chairman:** Member for South Baffin, please proceed.

**Mr. Temela:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there different kinds of advocacy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. There are. In our office we define two types of advocacy.

Individual advocacy is where we work one on one with an individual person. It could be a youth. It could be a family. We work with them on a particular issue that they're encountering.

Then there's that other type of advocacy that we call systemic advocacy. That's when we work on behalf of a group of children or youth that are being impacted by a big issue. It's a bigger issue and it's impacting more than one child or youth.

Both can result, whether it's individual advocacy or systemic advocacy, in change and positive change. One of the main goals of advocacy is initiating some change if we

identify an issue, whether it's an individual issue or a systemic issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Tununiq, please proceed.

**Mr. Pitseolak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is for the Representative for Children and Youth. I read your annual report and in it, it states that last year you opened an office. What has been done to date and how is it relevant to the Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. The annual report you are referring to really captured a period of time when our office was being developed back in 2014 and 2015. Often when I talk to people and they have questions about what does developing a new office look like, I get them to imagine something else instead of an advocacy office, let's say, a school.

Let's pretend for a minute that there are no schools in Nunavut and we have been asked to start the first school in Nunavut. Let's think what we might need. We might need a building, so it's securing a building and starting from there. We need people, so it's hiring staff. We need to train people that we hire, so it's training staff. We need to understand what we're going to teach or what our curriculum is going to look like, so it's developing the program.

That annual report largely focused on all the building blocks involved in building a new office. Now we fast-forward to where we are today. We opened officially on September 30, 2015 and since opening, our focus has been on individual advocacy and public awareness. Next year what we're going to grow into is the systemic advocacy piece, and then the year after that the plan is to grow into the critical injury and death review piece for our office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Tununiq, please proceed.

**Mr. Pitseolak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another question, not really related to the first question, but for the Representative for Children and Youth is: are there training or practices to become an employee in your office, or in your workplace? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Our staff come from a very diverse range of backgrounds, both education-wise and experience-wise. I think that's really important because our office can advocate on any government service. So to have staff that have a diverse set of skills and experience allows us to more



readily work with the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, or the Department of Health. We're quite fortunate in that respect with the skill set of our team.

In addition to what they bring in, as an office we have a responsibility absolutely, to provide some training and education as a new office doing a new thing in Nunavut. Our office very much invests in our staff. I'll give you one example of something our staff recently completed, which was an extension certificate on child rights through Mount Royal University. Our whole team was supported to complete that recently and we continue to absolutely invest in our team going forward. It's a big priority for our office.

I'm also going to add one more thing. In terms of on-the-job training, we also provide that, but recently we just through the Siviliqtiksat program through the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, hired an intern to provide a two-year internship opportunity to train an individual into a child and youth advocacy specialist position within our organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Chairman:** Member for Aivilik, please proceed.

**Ms. Nuluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your annual report you say that you heard from youth that one of the issues that mattered the most to youth is addressing the high rate of suicide. My question for the Representative for Children and Youth is: how did you collect that information from youth? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. That information, interestingly enough, was collected from the 2014 Youth Parliament Session that took place.

We attended, as I mentioned in my opening comments, and then what we do at our office, the information that is generated from Youth Parliament Sessions and any activity or opportunity that we have to talk to youth is extremely important to our office.

With respect to Youth Parliament, because that is where that example actually came from was the 2014 transcript. We were here in the gallery listening and taking notes. We then had a copy of the transcript and reviewed that against our notes and then we went through and did a very thorough review in terms of what the top issues were during that session that youth spoke about. That was certainly one that youth came up.

What we do with that information now, and actually the timing is very good because we just went through this exercise at our office, is we then take that information and we have, for those big issues, or what we call those systemic issues, we have a database where we put them all down and make sure we don't lose anything.

We just recently took all that information from the 2014 Youth Parliament and we will do the same with the transcript from today's proceedings. We opened up a database and we said, "What do we have here already that the youth said?" We went through and suicide is in our database. We added a note and the comments from Youth Parliament to support that and we will do the same, as I mentioned, with the proceedings here today.

What you say and what we hear, your essays, your statements today, and your questions, after today, will be reviewed very thoroughly by our office and held up against those big issues that we have identified in our database to see where they fit under what we have already captured and to identify what we may have not captured already so that when we begin to do that systemic work, we have a thorough understanding of what youth feel is important to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Hudson Bay, please proceed.

**Mr. Cookie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Children have a right to live without violence around their environment. It is important to let children have a good life throughout their childhood because one day they might be good leaders and pass down the knowledge they were taught by their parents or guardians.

Mr. Chairman, my question for the Representative for Children and Youth is: what does your office do if a child calls your office and says that they live in a violent place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. That's a very important question. Our office and all members of society have what's called a duty to report. If we received a call of that nature where there was concern that a child's safety was being compromised, then that law, that duty to report, would absolutely kick in for our office and we would be required to contact a child protection worker in that community or the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, please proceed.

**Ms. Lau:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will direct my question to the Representative for Children and Youth. Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 28 states that all children have the right to a good, quality education.

However, a lot of children are afraid and fear to report their education issues because the authority has control over their grades. It is my understanding that children need to obtain a reference letter from the educators for their workplace or post-secondary education.

Therefore my question is: how will the Representative for Children and Youth increase children's confidence in reporting their issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. It's a fantastic question and an important question. First of all it always isn't easy to reach out for help, but it's important to know that there are organizations like ours out there that are designed and the only reason we're here is to help youth. That's our focus.

I think one of the ways that we can really help youth feel a little bit more confident about reaching out for support is by doing things like this today, by meeting with youth, by having conversations about what we do, by giving an opportunity for you to ask questions and feel comfortable, by visiting your schools, which we do on a regular basis, by visiting your communities, and just by creating opportunities for us to connect and for us to talk and for us, you, and the public to start to understand the type of service that we provide, and have conversations and questions around "Will my information be confidential? What happens when I call?" and things like that.

I think that's achieved through good public outreach work on behalf of our office and opportunities like this, working with youth Parliamentarians and having an opportunity to visit our office are absolutely key to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, please proceed.

**Ms. Lau:** So another question I have is: how can the representative ensure that their concerns will be held confidential so that there are no repercussions from authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I mentioned in my opening statement that there are a few things that guide our office and one of the things I mentioned was the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*. That's our law and in that law there are very strict rules about how we treat information that people provide to us.

So that's what governs us how we work and we follow those rules very strictly at our office and all information that is provided to us is held in strict confidence. There are a few provisions we spoke about yesterday where information does need to be disclosed. We talked about one in a previous question. If there's a child protection matter then another law can kick in and we have to report that.

There's also an age requirement. Sometimes we need to speak to a child's parents and

also, sometimes issues around the nature of what we're hearing may require us to speak to a family member of the youth, but all those provisions are outlined very clearly in the Act and it's something that our staff is trained on before they begin their advocacy work with youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Baker Lake, please proceed.

**Mr. Ford:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many rights given to the youth from having clean water to drink to having the best education you can acquire. My question for the Representative for Children and Youth is: how do you ensure these rights are followed in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many rights under the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Right now we are very much focused on individual advocacy. When a youth comes to us or a family with an issue, right away we put our child rights glasses on. Everyone on our team has a pair of those. We call it the child rights lens and that's actually the tie into that training piece. That's another key piece of training that all of our team received is how to look through the world at an issue with respect to child rights.

We're trained to put that lens on in our office in everything we do. Right now with an individual, if someone came in with an individual issue, when we work with them we put that lens on right away. When we help support them and advocate for them, if we're having discussions with departments, we talk that language we talk about that individuals rights and bring that up.

We will do the same thing with our systemic work. We put that lens on, so if we're investigating a big issue down the road, then that's the lens that we have to apply to that issue that we're looking at to see when we're looking at the issue are there any rights being violated here and if so why? Then we need to talk about that and then we need to fix that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Next person on my list, Member for Gjoa Heaven.

**Ms. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question for the representative for children and youth is: how long has the office been open, how do you guys keep track of everyone you helped? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. We have been open. On September 30 we celebrated our one-year birthday. Like we talked about yesterday, when we talk about childhood and young adulthood, we're at the infancy stage. We just had our first birthday.

I'm going to kindly ask if you can repeat the second part of that question, please.

**Chairman:** Member for Gjoa Haven, will you please repeat your question.

**Ms. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How do you keep track of the ones you helped? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for repeating the question. We have a lot of information to keep track of at our office. That's an excellent question. We have purchased a case management system. It's a computerized system that allows us to keep track of all that information and that helps us manage our work. It helps us make sure that when we owe a youth back a phone call, we're calling them. It has all triggers in it and it's where all our information is held, in that system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Please raise your hand if you have... . Member for Gjoa Haven, please proceed.

**Ms. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question is: did you guys have an opening ceremony when it first opened? If so, how was it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did. We did two things, actually. When we opened on September 30, we held an open house and we had lots of people throughout the day, from government departments to Inuit organizations, the public just dropped by and came and spent some time with us and got to learn about the office a little bit.

We had a big opening celebration about three weeks later on October 23. We really wanted to mark the occasion with a bigger event other than the open house because the idea to have this type of office was actually generated back in, I believe, 1999. It has this long history and it was something really big that happened, so it was worthy of a big celebration.

We had a bit of a delay because, interestingly enough, on September 30 when we opened, we needed to be in the office because our phone started ringing and we needed to start providing services.

We had the October 23 event on a Friday evening after work hours. It was an event open to the community. It was a very family-friendly event where we had the wonderful music of the Daniel Kolola Band, a local high school band, and just celebrated and had a wonderful evening with about 200 plus community members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Baker Lake, please proceed.

**Mr. Ford:** I'm sorry; I don't have any follow-up questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Member for Kugluktuk, please proceed.

**Hon. Felix Anablak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Representative for Children and Youth for her opening comments. I would like to know: what is the biggest challenge that your office faces? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I think one of the biggest issues that we face is that we're a new organization and we're doing something pretty new. Like I said before, it's the first time an organization like this was developed in Nunavut. We're new. The type of work we're doing is new.

The challenge is getting the word out and explaining to people who we are and what type of support we can provide and what type of assistance we can provide. That kind of gets compounded a bit by the fact that we're based here in Iqaluit and we have a vast territory to cover. It's very important to us to connect with all the communities, like we spoke about yesterday.

A big challenge for us is getting to communities on a regular basis with a very small team so we can spend time with all the different communities, learn about them, connect with youth and communities and hear what the issues are in all the communities and have a presence.

I think one of our biggest challenges is our newness and then just making sure that we are getting out beyond Iqaluit into all of the communities and doing some good community travel each year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Netsilik, Ms. Totalik, please proceed.

**Ms. Totalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm representing the riding for Netsilik and I've never heard of a presentation by your organization. However, I have seen your literature at the health centre.

My question for the Representative for Children and Youth is: what are you doing to let youth know that you are available to speak on their behalf, otherwise meaning advocating for them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. A big part of our public awareness work, there are lots of different components to it. One is, as I mentioned, our website, but as we discussed, not everyone has computer access and connectivity is a bit of an issue so we can't just rely on that, of course.

It's also sending information to all the service providers in the communities and material like you would have seen posted at the health centre. There is also, like I mentioned, visiting the communities. When we visit communities we do a few different things. Before we go, the visit is very planned out and we schedule time with the principal, to meet with the staff, we schedule time with the teachers to visit classrooms. We schedule times with service providers and also make sure that we're available. We have a booth set up in the Northern Store and things like that. There are a lot of different ways that we're really trying to get information across Nunavut.

If there are any ideas of how we can do a better job of that, we would really welcome that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, please proceed.

**Ms. Rojas:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have the right to practice their own culture, language and religion, and that minority and Indigenous groups need special protection to this right.

Like I said in my member's statement, students in Nunavut do not have good Inuktitut courses and they can't speak their own language. In your annual report you state that your office role is to give advice and recommendations to government on how to make its programs, services, laws and policies better for children and youth.

How does your office work with the Department of Education to improve Inuktitut courses in Nunavut schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I can share with you one of the more recent ways that we've worked with the Department of Education.

Even though we haven't opened up our systemic advocacy program yet within our office, we have actually made a submission with respect to the *Education Act* to the Department of Education. Those types of submissions fit under the systemic part of our office.

We made a submission, and in that submission, because there are so many important articles under the convention, we really in that submission, instead of focusing on one or two, we focused on the entire convention with the Department of Education. We really advocated for the inclusion of the convention to be noted in the administration of the Nunavut *Education Act*.

That's one way that our office can and has recently supported the convention all the rights under that convention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Are there any more questions? Member for Pangnirtung, please proceed.

**Hon. Elisapee Maniapik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a comment and a question for the Representative for Children and Youth. I learned that the Representative for Children and Youth will work with the government and organizations to help solve problems that youth and children face. I would like to know more information about this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, our work requires us to work extremely close with the Government of Nunavut and all different types of service providers in government. What that looks like really, it depends on the situation that we have before us but what it can look like and what it often looks like is that there are a lot of meetings about issues. There are a lot of discussions about the challenges or issues a person may be having.

Sometimes those meetings are as a result of an issue that someone is facing immediately. We've also started having what we call "proactive meetings" with the Government of Nunavut. We come together whether there's not something really that urgent or pressing, or specific to a person that we need to talk about. We sit down with them and create a space where we can have a discussion, where we can say "how is our relationship with each other working," because it needs to work well in order for us to meet our common goals, where we can share information about observations although we are not into that formal review and recommendations yet.

We have conversations around that in terms of, "we're open a year now and these are our observations." We foster an open exchange of information and its very important because even though their work is a little different than ours, we do share a common goal in that their aim is to provide services to children and youth that support their wellbeing and our aim is that children and youth are very well supported. We have definitely a common goal and the relationship between us is very important, and we foster it by have a lot of good and open communication with the departments. Thank you for that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, please proceed.

**Hon. Kelly Ineak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Representative for Children and Youth for hosting us yesterday. I really liked all the work that they are doing for children and youth. Do you have all the resources you need to do your job? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. As a brand new office I think it's fair to say that we're off to a good start in terms of the amount of resources that we have. We currently have nine staff as well as an intern, so 10 now.



We're off to a fair start. It'll be a priority of our office to check in at the end of this year and especially at the end of next year too, to really assess now that we're open what our workload looks like and to make that determination if we do have enough resources or not. To start I think we're off to a really good start and a fair start in terms of the resources we have. We have noticed that demand for support from our office is very high, even as a new office. We're going to watch that very carefully over the next couple of years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Quttiktuq, please proceed.

**Mr. Kalluk McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are given \$1,570,000. How do you spend it and what do you spend it on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. A good amount of that money is on salary dollars for the nine-person staff that we have and then other money is allocated to a list of budget items. Some of the bigger items that we have in our budget other than salary are travel and transportation. We have money earmarked for that because that's very important to get us out to all the communities that I mentioned, also contract services to hire contractors to help us with special reports and things of that nature. That would be the three biggest items in our budget. It's salary, travel, and contract services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, please proceed.

**Ms. Tugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Convention of Rights and Freedoms states that children have the right to practise their culture.

I have noticed that programs embracing the Inuit culture that are held in my community are exclusively limited to 16 years of age and older.

My question for the Representative for Children and Youth is: how does the representative make sure that the programs in her office are available to children under 16? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. When we talk about our offices for children and youth, it includes the age range from birth to the day before your 19th birthday, so birth to 18 years old. It includes that range. There are also, actually, other extensions of age mentioned in our law where, under certain circumstances, we can even move beyond that 18 years of age to work with young people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Rankin Inlet South, please proceed.

**Ms. Anderson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Convention of the Rights of the Child states that children have a right to healthy food and a safe environment.

My question for the Representative for Children and Youth is: what services or programs can help families who do not have access to healthy... ? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information with me right now. You're absolutely right that one of the rights listed under the convention for children and youth is the right to healthy food.

In terms of delivery of food-based programs, that would be offered by the Government of Nunavut and other community-based resources. What our office can do is if a child or youth was having a problem or their family was having a problem with food security or a food security issue and accessing a Government of Nunavut program or subsidy that related to food security, then they could come to us and ask us for assistance in helping resolve that issue on their behalf and working with them to work with that government department or organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, please proceed.

**Hon. Simon McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was looking at your budget report that was included in your annual report for the 2014-15 fiscal year. My question for the Representative for Children and Youth is: why is the travel expense percentage under one percent of your total budget if you want to help children and kids throughout Nunavut?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's an excellent observation and question.

The report that we were referring to is from 2014-15 and during that period of time our office was just starting, so there was only me, and then a couple of more people. That was in the very early days of the office before it opened, so we didn't have any travel planned because we were building the office, getting the building, the equipment, we were hiring the people, we were training them and writing all the policies and procedures and that sort of thing. So the travel expenditures for that year were considerably low.

The little bit of money that we spent during that period of time was actually spent going to visit other advocacy offices in other jurisdictions to learn from them to help us develop in that development period for our office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Are there any more questions? Member for Tununiq, please proceed.

**Mr. Pitseolak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another question for the Representative for Children and Youth is: when you help people or connect with people to help them for any [particular issue,] how long do you keep in touch with the person? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is an excellent question because often when people come to us, a lot of times they're coming to us maybe because people haven't gotten back to them or there has been some failure in communication.

Communication at our organization and follow-up to the youth or family we're working with is a high priority in our office. What that looks like really depends on the situation that we're dealing with. Sometimes that could mean that there is contact every other day between our office and a youth or their family. Or if it's a different type of situation, it could mean that there is a week or two that goes by before there is contact again.

There is always regular contact. There is never a delay in information between our staff and the person that has the issue. Regular and good communication and follow-up is a big priority for us. Sometimes we even work on these files that extend for months at a time on complicated issues, and throughout let's say, and I'll use an example, we're working on a file for six months, throughout that six months there are going to be regular check-in points.

Even if we don't have any new information to share, our staff call and let you know that just so we can all stay on the same page and in the loop and feel like there is good information and connection being established. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Member for Arviat South, please proceed.

**Hon. Elena Akammak-Nipisar:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a question but I do have a comment. I appreciate the work that the Representative for Children and Youth does for foster care. I encourage you to keep advocating for children and youth rights on this very important matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** There are no further questions or comments? Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk.

**Hon. Simon McDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your website talks about youth advisories. How can we get involved?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Member. Ms. McNeil-Mulak.

**Ms. McNeil-Mulak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was hoping somebody would ask that question. It's simple. You just need to contact our office and our intake specialist will

collect your information. What I will say about that is it's a very new thing for us. We have done what's called kind of a soft launch. We put it out there into the world, but this next year coming up we're going to get really behind it and do some great recruitment behind that program and try to get a real up-to-date and active list of youth to work with our office.

In the meantime we would encourage all of you to contact our office. The information is on the website. I think there's information in the bags that you were given yesterday. If anyone is interested in becoming a youth advisor and working with us, we would absolutely love that, or if you're not sure and you just have questions about it, what that would entail and what it might look like, feel free to call us and ask us those good questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Are there any more questions? There are no further questions or comments. I would like to thank Ms. McNeil-Mulak and her staff for appearing before us today. We will now take a short break.

>>Applause

>>Committee recessed at 16:42 and House resumed at 16:50

**Speaker:** Welcome back. Member for Gjoa Haven, please proceed.

**Ms. Porter:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to go back to Item 7 on the *Orders of the Day*.

**Speaker:** The member is asking to go back to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Please proceed, Member for Gjoa Haven.

### **Revert to Item 7: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Ms. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Minnie Aglukkaq. This person is my cousin and I thank her for her support and for showing for the Youth 2016 Parliament.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Item 10. Closing Remarks. Mr. Clerk, could you please determine if the Commissioner is prepared to enter the Chamber for her closing remarks.

### Item 10: Commissioner's Closing Remarks

**Commissioner Nellie Kusugak:** Be seated.

(interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) I enjoyed myself this afternoon watching you at work. As Members of the Sixth Youth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, I was wondering the kind of experience that you're having today had we, my generation, was able to have this kind of experience that you're having, what difference would that have made in Nunavut today when I think about it. What a privilege you have been given to experience what it's like to be a part of the democratic process.

(interpretation) I think you have a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the House, what it's like to be a member, (interpretation ends) and it's a lot of information for you to absorb, but your brain is very young, much younger than mine, and you can hold much more information than I do, probably.

First of all, happy birthday to Jackson Ford.

>>*Applause*

I am happy to say that we have good, working pages here.

>>*Laughter*

They were just telling me, "I didn't realize how much water people drank."

>>*Laughter*

But anyway one of the other things that I was really impressed with was (interpretation) that you were using the Inuktitut language without being embarrassed about it and I thank you very much. You have to showcase your "Inukism" to use your Inuktitut language without being embarrassed about it. I'm very proud of you and please remember your identity.

(interpretation ends) With the questions and that, I was impressed with some of the very quick answers that some of the youth gave. If this is something that you want to do in the future then I would suggest that you start volunteering in your communities. When you're old enough to serve on a council, be it the education board or recreation board, or any kind of board that you can take a part in, start to have that experience. Then you'll understand more how the process works because when you want to be an MLA or represent your people, you are the servant of the people who elect you. They are the ones that you are working for to improve their lives.

Like I said, I had such pleasure to be a part of this afternoon. I think you were able to see the difference of a consensus government compared to party politics and experience the

roles and responsibilities that MLAs have. The Premier and the ministers and the Speaker, you know what that role is like now.

I think we had an excellent Speaker today.

>>Applause

You understand a little more now of what my role is as Commissioner of Nunavut. The important thing is working together, (interpretation) to work together without challenging each other.

We also heard about the rights of youth and children and how you can help out in your communities when you go back. If you need any information, (interpretation ends) you can check the website. She gave you all of that information.

I'm really looking forward to having dinner with you tonight and to hear more of your aspirations and your dreams for Nunavut and also about what you wrote in your essays about what leadership means to you and the dreams you have for Nunavut as leaders.

Keep working hard and continue to contribute to your communities, to your territory, and to your nation. For those of you who are leaving tomorrow, I wish you the best of your travels and safe travels, and have a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends.

I truly enjoyed this day today. Thank you.

>>Applause

### **Item 11: Orders of the Day**

**Speaker:** Item 11. *Orders of the Day.*

As this is the end of the Sixth Nunavut Youth Parliament, I would like to say a few words before we finish.

I would like to thank the following MLAs for paging for us today:

George Qulaut  
Peter Taptuna  
Pat Angnakak  
George Kuksuk, and  
Paul Okalik

>>Applause

The Sixth Youth Parliament is now concluded and the next Youth Parliament will take place on a date to be announced.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:00*

