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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Tununiq)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation*

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Housing Corporation*

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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(Cambridge Bay)
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Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
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Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety
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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
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Family Services; Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister responsible for
Immigration; Minister responsible for the
Status of Women*

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(South Baffin)

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, October 26, 2018

Members Present:

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

>>House commenced at 9:00

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

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

We will now proceed to the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Sheutiapik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 082 – 5(2): 36th Annual Meeting of FPT Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Good morning. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as a minister to say that October 19 marked the conclusion of the 36th annual meeting of the FPT ministers responsible for the status of women. I attended the three-day meeting (interpretation ends) and I was inspired by the commitment and dedication of ministers across Canada who are investing in advancing gender equality within their respective jurisdictions.

During the meeting, ministers discussed the gender wage gap and efforts to prevent and address gender-based violence. Ministers also engaged in a discussion on women's participation in the economy and leadership. Throughout the meeting I raised the challenges women and young girls face in the territory, such as the high rates of violence against women and the lack of daycare for women looking to enter the labour market.

Uqaqtitsijii, it became clear throughout the meeting that Nunavut is falling behind other jurisdictions in efforts to support women and girls experiencing violence and in efforts to end violence against women and girls. For example, Nunavut remains the only jurisdiction in Canada with no transitional housing for women escaping violence. Nunavut has no comprehensive family violence strategy that we, as a government, have committed to. *Uqaqtitsijii*, with the rates of family violence as high as they are in the territory, this is not acceptable.

Uqaqtitsijii, it is my role as Minister responsible for the Status of Women to advance women's social and economic priorities, address gender-based violence, and help mobilize communities to work towards gender equality.

I will continue to advocate at the FPT Status of Women Forum and strengthen to support and commit to advance gender equality within our governments, to create safe places for our women and girls, and to end violence against women in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to tabling a report on the FPT meeting in the winter of 2019 to the Legislative Assembly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 083 – 5(2):
Long-term Service Award
Recipients 30+ Years**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to recognize and thank Government of Nunavut staff who have dedicated 30 years or more to the public service. These devoted employees will be honoured with long-term service awards at an event tonight. These dedicated individuals represent many of our departments and public bodies and come from across the territory. Their long-term service is an example of their strong commitment to serving and providing for our communities.

Mr. Speaker, our government continues to invest in and support the employees of the public service to the benefit of all Nunavummiut. Through training and mentorship programs as well as a positive and supportive work environment, I am confident that more of our workforce will continue to

dedicate many years of valuable service to Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the following employees with more than 30 years of service: Mark Gordon and Patty Greenley from Community and Government Services; Joanna Quassa from Culture and Heritage; Darlene Nuqingaq, Jacqueline Bishop, Joanni Sallerina, Licia Etooangat, Marjorie Havioyak, Meeka Alivaktuk, Rebecca Kudloo, and Winnie Seeteenak, all from Education; David Akoak from Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Eva Ohokak from Finance; Barbara Harvey, Claudette Girouard-Qamanirq, and Rosie Kudlualik from Health, and Donna Olsen-Hakongak from Justice.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I am also proud to recognize employees with more than 35 years of service and these employees are: Tommy Akavak from Environment; Marie Tiktak from Health; and Jukeepa Hainnu from Arctic College.

With great appreciation, I want to recognize three employees with more than 40 years of dedicated service: Sam Willy Killiktee from Community and Government Services; Piuyuq Enoogoo from Education; and Tirak Parr from Nunavut Arctic College.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, once again I extend a great appreciation to our dedicated workforce here in the Government of Nunavut. Congratulations to these long-term service award recipients. Colleagues, please join me in thanking them for their years of service. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 084 – 5(2):
Long-term Service Award
Recipients 20+ Years**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This evening the Premier and colleagues from this House will join me to recognize a number of employees for their long-term service to our government. Today I would like to recognize those government employees in the Legislative Assembly. These employees have dedicated their careers to public service and have made enormous contributions to their communities and our territory over the decades of their employment.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the following employees who have dedicated 20 years of public service to Nunavut. The list is a little bit longer than the Premier had to read. Bonnie Osborne, Douglas McLarty, Grigor Hope, Terry McCallum, Marykulu MacMunn, Leo Twerdin, Robert Connelly, Louisa Rosie MacIntosh, Shannon Hessian, Johanne Coutu-Autut, Lena Takoonagak, Mitch Campbell, Maryanne Uluadluak, Cory Bell, Ellen Compala-Biag, Lena Mark, Toota Tatty, Amy Aknavigak, Anne Mosher, Asenath Nasook, Dorothy Barton, Laureen Pameolik, Marlene Tulugak, Ulujuk Sateana, Jacqueline K. Curley, James Malcolm (aka Jamal) Shirley, Jason Carpenter, Marlene Angnakak, Susanne Karetak, Charlie

Evaglok, Jules Pineau, Kain Killiktee, and Peter Kaunak.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend congratulations to the following employees who have dedicated 25 years of public service to our government: David Tulugak, Paul Voisey, Agnes Mamgark, Chris Eccles, Doreen Ikakhik, Igah Hainnu, Julia Josephie, Leocadia Emingak, Margaret Okatsiak, Marianne Kabluitok, Naomi I. Tremblay, Stephen Pinksen, Nancy Maghagak, Annamarie Hedley, Daphne Covernton, Harold Putumiraqtuq, Joanne Dignard, Lavinia Nagmalik, William Ollie, J.P. Deroy, David Gunn, and Imooshee Nutaraqjuk.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I do and I'm sure we all thank them for making a difference in their communities and our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 085 – 5(2):
Opening of the New Taloyoak Air
Terminal Building**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Air terminal buildings are the entrances to our communities in Nunavut. They are the places where we say "hello" and "goodbye" to our loved ones and where we welcome new people into our communities.

This past September I, along with Premier Savikataaq, Netsilik MLA

Qirngnuq, and Minister Ehaloak, and Minister Joanasie, had the honour of travelling to Taloyoak to officially open their new air terminal building.

Mr. Speaker, the two-storey, \$6.3 million air terminal building is much larger than the previous building, but despite its size, it was completely packed with people taking part in the celebration. The new building allows more space for the public, airline staff, and community aerodrome radio operators and has been built with accessibility in mind.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of this new air terminal shows the Government of Nunavut's commitment to connecting Nunavummiut to one another through strategic investment in transportation. The new Taloyoak air terminal improves passenger safety and access to cargo, domestic and medical travel, and will serve the community for decades to come.

As the members are aware, with the support of the federal government's National Trade Corridors Fund, we will be constructing five additional new air terminals over the coming years. I'm sure that those five communities will welcome the improvements to their airports as much as the people of Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of the people who made the construction and opening of this building possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Minister's Statement 086 – 5(2):
Education Act Consultations
Update**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of September my department has been conducting consultations for the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

So far we have met with 11 education stakeholders and partners and have visited 17 of Nunavut's 25 communities. In each of these community consultations we have had one meeting with the local district education authority and another meeting open to the entire community.

I would also like to remind you, Mr. Speaker, and my fellow members that community consultations will be continuing this fall starting on November 13 and finishing on November 27. When the consultations are completed, my department will have travelled to every community in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, furthermore, I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to come to the consultation meetings and made their opinions and ideas known. All input from Nunavummiut is taken into consideration. I would also like to thank all the district education authority members that have assisted my department in arranging and setting up the consultation meetings in their

respective communities.

Finally, to ensure that all Nunavummiut can be informed of the proposed amendments to the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and have their voices heard, they can visit and I encourage them to visit the consultation website, www.ourgoalsforeducation.ca. There they can find detailed information and fill out a comment card. All Nunavummiut have until December 14 to share their suggestions or share their general views on the proposed amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 087 – 5(2):
Therapeutic Justice Program**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning to the visitors in the gallery, my colleagues, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice has been working for many years on a potential therapeutic program in Nunavut, occasionally known as the wellness court or wellness program. Throughout 2018 the department has undertaken targeted consultations in Arviat, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit.

The program, as it is envisioned, will enhance traditional counselling and clinical therapy available to individuals who have come into contact with the

criminal justice system. It will focus on underlying causes to criminal behaviour, such as mental health, addictions, and trauma.

I rise today to inform you that the Department of Justice recently secured funding from the federal government to develop and implement a two-year therapeutic justice pilot project in the community of Cambridge Bay.

Uqaqtii, the decision to host this pilot project in Cambridge Bay had many factors, which include the presence of the hamlet's department of healthy living, previously called the wellness centre of Cambridge Bay, a number of community-based groups and organizations, the existence of an on-the-land [program] focusing on addiction issues, the amount of collaboration between [different] governmental and non-governmental entities already in place, the presence of an on-site criminal defence lawyer, and the frequency to which the Nunavut Court of Justice flies into the community.

The Department of Justice aims to launch the program on April 1, 2019. A strong collaboration with key partners, many of whom are at the community level, has been essential to getting us to this point and we look forward to continued collaboration going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 137 – 5(2): State of Mental Health in Nunavut

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to start off my member's statement on a more serious note, but I will end it on a lighter one.

The issue that I would like to raise is the issue of mental health and the state of mental health in our territory. Over the past 18 years people in Nunavut have taken their own lives at a rate nearly 10 times the national average. Since 1999 there have been at least 575 suicides in this territory and those figures are shocking. This is a serious issue.

I'm proud to have the privilege today to announce an event taking place in Iqaluit tomorrow at the Frobisher Inn at 2:00 p.m., *Life After Dark: Feeling Suicide Trauma*. The event is going to be hosted by Madeleine Allakariallak, an important event focusing on local survivors of suicide and how we can move forward together.

Madeleine will be joined by Suzanne Sagmeister, the author of the book, *Life After Dark, 100 Stories of Hope from Survivors of Suicide*, who will share her experiences with suicide-related trauma as well as local survivors who will be telling their own stories. We actually have two members in our presence today who actually contributed to the book, Pat Angnakak and Clarence Synard.

I would also like to thank those who are responsible for creating this event. The event is being organized by a number of non-profit as well as private organizations to sponsor the event,

including the Embrace Life Council, NCC Investment Group, Frobisher Inn, Arctic Co-operatives Ltd., the Driving Force, and Canadian North, as well as Suzanne Sagmeister herself, who is volunteering to come here on her own to assist us in addressing this very important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 138 – 5(2): New Taloyoak Air Terminal Building

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the residents of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, my colleagues, and visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak to something a fellow member brought up earlier. In the fall the bull caribou lose their velvet. When they came and opened the new terminal in Taloyoak, it was very important to the community of Taloyoak.

I want to thank the Minister of Transportation, Minister Akeegok. I would also like to thank our Premier, Mr. Savikataaq, Minister of Education, Mr. Joanasie, Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak, and Minister of Justice, Ms. Jeannie Ehaloak. I thank them for being able to visit the community of Taloyoak. It clearly shows how old the airport terminals are in the smaller communities. It is very important that you came to visit us, even though it was a quick visit.

I also wish to thank the ministers for visiting my community of Kugaaruk. It was good to have them there and they came and saw our school, which I am thankful for. I hope to see you in the near future. I thank the ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 139 – 5(2):
Recent Passing of Louis Taparti**

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North.

Just very recently we lost a friend as residents of the Kivalliq and Rankin Inlet and I want to remember Louis Taparti. He was well known and we send condolences to his children and his family. They are in my thoughts and I feel their pain.

Louis Taparti, every Nunavut Day, volunteered to be the host of this event, always joking and in good humour. He also volunteered on Canada Day and was a very good host. He knew each of us and we knew him well around the Kivalliq.

For the Kivalliq regional roundtable negotiations and meetings, he gave his services of communication and interpretation. He interpreted at many meetings for government and Inuit organizations.

He was also an accomplished singer and performer and, if you want to see videos, they are available on YouTube where he sings, "I don't just drink; I drink to get drunk."

>>Laughter

He didn't just drink; he drank to get drunk.

He worked at the CBC. We miss dearly our friend, Louis Taparti. However, let's remember that we lose friends and relatives all around us. Life is very precious. Thank you, Louis Taparti. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove.

**Member's Statement 140 – 5(2): The
Importance of Protecting Caribou
Herds**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues, (interpretation ends) Premier, and ministers.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about caribou. As we all know, caribou can't vote because they are animals. We have to think for them in this House as these are our animals and they too need representation. The people who elect us, the people of Arviat and Whale Cove, really rely on caribou. If it happens that we don't have any more or fewer caribou, I don't know how the people in my constituency can have a good life.

Within Nunavut, the NWT, and Nunavik, northern Inuit are finding and witnessing themselves a decline in caribou, which is worrisome. If that happens in our communities, it would be really worrisome. People rely on them for food and they are very closely tied with culture and tradition. Looking at the future, I have seen many caribou with my own eyes. I would like that to continue in the future. I would like my sons and perhaps my future grandchildren to see it too.

I would like Nunavut to have lots of caribou for all time, but you all know in the Legislative Assembly about mining. I vocally support mining, but I'm also thinking that we should look at mining and caribou together. Later on I will have questions to the Minister of Environment about caribou management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 141 – 5(2): New Church in Grise Fiord

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, I think you can all remember that in February a very unhappy situation occurred in Grise Fiord where our church caught on fire. It was totally destroyed and couldn't be used anymore.

The people of Grise Fiord and church leader Aksakjuk Ningiuk had taken good care of the church. When the church was on fire, the contractors in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and the communities of

Nunavut immediately indicated that they would help rebuild the church in Grise Fiord, which was very much appreciated.

Since there was insurance on the church through the Diocese of the Arctic, the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and NCC supported the rebuild of the church. Yesterday evening they hammered in the final nail and completed the construction of the church. Once the electrical wiring is completed, the church will be open once again.

I am very grateful to all the people who helped rebuild the church. It seemed hopeless at that time, but through prayers and huge support, we now have another church and I would like to thank all of the people who built the church. Now we have a beautiful church up there and I hope to go up there at the end of November and go to church. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Member's Statement 142 – 5(2): Long-term Service Award Recipients

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as a regular member. There are three long-term service award recipients who work for the Government of Nunavut and I'm proud of them. Two people who have been working for 20 years are Leo Twerdin for the Department of Economic Development and Jules

Pineau for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and with 25 years of service is David Gunn at Nunavut Arctic College. I am proud of them.

I would also like to say that I haven't been out much this past week. (interpretation ends) I wish the therapeutic justice program was not new. Our last sitting I missed lots because of loss in my family. Unfortunately the grandmother, my older sister... She's older than me but smaller than me. My little big sister unfortunately has come back and is not going to be receiving any more treatment.

I just want to say that we have challenging times. Quassa has mentioned that as leaders, we go through ups and downs and we are certainly going through that, but I felt it important to say that sometimes when we leave this room, leave it in this room. I appreciate every one of you. For me the hardest part today will be talking to the doctor to discuss with my sister if we're going to resuscitate her. We have challenges here, but sometimes we have to also be respectful of each other when we leave this House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 143 – 5(2): 2018
High School Graduates of Rankin
Inlet**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Rankin Inlet and

Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this summer there were some graduates in the community of Rankin Inlet. Usually they graduate at the end of June after they have written their final exam. I was very pleased that I was able to be there. There were 33 graduates at that time and there are a lot of them, but I'll say their names.

>> *Laughter*

- Tia Adams,
- Annette Paniyuk,
- Germain Aliyak,
- Joan Panlican,
- Ada Angidlik,
- Jayda Pilakapsi,
- Heather Boucher,
- Avaala Sabourin,
- Lynda Curley,
- Lana Sigurdson,
- A.J. Curley,
- Brenda Tagalik,
- Matthew Ford-Rogers,
- Inuujaq Ignerdjuk,
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- Krista Nukapiak,
- Isabelle Nilaulak,
- Dodie Netser,
- Precious Maningas,
- Troy Makpah,
- Scott Kowtak,
- Qalujjaq Komaksiutiksak,
- Kyla Kent,
- Nathaniel Ymana,
- Arthur Kadlak,
- Dorothy Quinangnaq,
- Damian Kabvitok,
- Kristian Ugjuk,

- Ian-John Kabluitok, and
- Issaluk Tattuinee.

We congratulate them all and are very proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 144 – 5(2):
Long-term Service Award
Recipients**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Good morning, my colleagues. To the people of Pangnirtung, I say "good morning" to you.

This was brought up earlier, but I would like to recognize individuals who will receive long-term service awards here in Iqaluit. I would also like to thank you for extending an invitation to me as I was forgotten in Pangnirtung.

First of all, this individual was an instructor who has worked for 20 years at the community learning centre, Marlene Angnakak, and a teacher who has worked for 30 years, Licia Keenainak, who taught all my children when they were smaller. I congratulate her. Meeka Alivaktuk, my cousin, has worked as a school counsellor. I would also like to recognize my brother-in-law, who is not from Pangnirtung. Tommy Akavak has worked for 35 years. He's my older sister's husband. Thank you and I am proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Moving on. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

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

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

An Hon. Member: Good morning.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you.

I would like to take this time to welcome and recognize a few people in the House today. First, I would like to recognize Darlene Nuqingaq. Darlene has been a family friend for many years. In fact we have a nickname for Darlene, Darlin' Darlene. We all call her Darlin' Darlene in recognition of her kindness. She's a very kind and thoughtful person and we need more people like Darlene in our schools.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>Applause

Ms. Angnakak: Darlene, thank you for all the years that you have dedicated to the GN in the area of education. We have advancements in education and they were realized through your work.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time also to recognize and welcome to the House my constituent, David Akoak, and to also thank him for all the years that he has dedicated to the GN. Thank you, David.

>>Applause

I would also like to welcome and recognize Paul Irngaut. He's my new neighbour. He has been my constituent for a while, but he recently moved into a new house across the street from us. Thank you and welcome to the House.

>> *Applause*

I would like to just offer my congratulations to all the long-term recipients across Nunavut. Thank you for your dedication. It's not easy sometimes to work for the GN, but you stuck it out. You stuck it out and that's important because we need to have the staff that have been here that know what Nunavut is like and what is best for Nunavut, and that I think will help everybody in the long run.

Lastly, I want to thank Simeon. He is not here, but I'm using his chair.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Simeon. I have realized it's a great view from here.

>> *Laughter*

You can see everything. I'll see if I can negotiate with him to see if he would let me stay here a little longer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to first recognize Suzanne Sagmeister once again.

Suzanne is a photographer, an inspirational author, an advocate, and a speaker.

Like many people in Nunavut, Suzanne has been touched by suicide throughout her entire life and has since become the founder of Conspiracy of Hope, a suicide awareness organization, as well as writing her story, *Life After Dark: 100 Stories of Hope from Survivors of Suicide*.

Once again, this is quite an inspirational and emotional book, and the amount of information in there that Suzanne contributed as well as the 100 other individuals that shared their stories is well worth the read. The book will be available for free thanks to the sponsors at tomorrow's event. I hope that all the members will attend and hear what has to be said.

I would also like to take the opportunity to recognize Clarence Synard. He is acting president and CEO of NCC. Clarence has been a long-time member of our community and an active volunteer. Clarence and NCC have shown their corporate social responsibility by going above and beyond and making significant contributions to our communities. I thank Clarence and I thank NCC, and I thank all the other private organizations that have banded together to make contributions to our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize my former classmate from quite a while ago now at Akaitcho Hall. I'm glad to see Mr. Robert Seeteenak. Please welcome him. He is very capable. He looks small but talented. I also want to recognize his wonderful wife who has been a long-time employee of the government. Please feel welcomed and I'm glad to see you.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I want to express my respect and to recognize someone who has served in Nunavut as perhaps the longest serving vice-president, perhaps even in the whole world. We know Mr. James Eetoolook very well, who has served Inuit ever since I got to know him, yet he never seem to age.

>>Laughter

I'm glad to honour him. All Nunavummiut know him as well. Since the creation of our land claims organization, he has always been our vice-president. This is an amazing record and he has shown his leadership and dedication.

Also, younger Paul Qallutsiaq Irngaut has been a long-time employee at Nunavut Tunngavik and we all know him as well. If you watched TV, he shows up once in a while and we know him dressed up as Santa Claus.

>>Laughter

I want to show our respect and he is my very good friend. He is originally from Igloolik and has lived here in Iqaluit for a long time.

I am proud of and wish you all in joining me to recognize him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak. I'm sorry. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize three people here who have dedicated 30 years' service to the Government of Nunavut and the Government of the NWT, as Nunavut hasn't been around here 30 years. They worked in two territories for a long time. As Ms. Angnakak said earlier, we appreciate your dedication and your hard work to the Government of Nunavut. At times we don't say it enough, but we truly appreciate our Government of Nunavut workers. Three are: David Akoak, who is with EIA here in Iqaluit, 30 years' service. Thank you, David.

>>Applause

The next one is Darlene Nuqingaq. She is from Education and from Iqaluit and 30 years' service.

>>Applause

Lastly, since she comes from the farthest, is Winnie Seeteenak from Education in Baker Lake for 30 years' service, and her husband, Robert Seeteenak.

>>Applause

I would like all of us to congratulate them on their many years of hard service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, Nunavummiut, (interpretation) the people of Gjoa Haven who are watching the proceedings, and my relatives.

(interpretation ends) I want to rise to recognize a couple of people, one of whom is David Akoak, my brother. He is being recognized for 30 years of service, and I myself having reached ten years yet with the government.

>>Laughter

I hope he's proud to call me "my brother" and I recognize him. Welcome to the House.

To someone who has been in politics for a long time and who represents Inuit very well, and has been recognized already, and I'm proud to be part of his family through my wife, Mr. James Eetoolook.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this individual was acknowledged, Clarence Synard. I would like to speak about someone who is very well known on TV in the US as Oral Roberts' son, Richard Roberts. When he was going to be arriving to Iqaluit, all the hotels were full to capacity. I called Clarence Synard and asked, "Do you have any unused, empty units?" He helped me right away. Thank you, Clarence Synard.

>>Applause

I would also like to say that Clarence Synard is (interpretation ends) just a full-time decent human being.

(interpretation) I would also like to recognize these individuals who were already recognized, Winnie Seeteenak and Robert Seeteenak. Robert Seeteenak, I believe, is very good with numbers. I know that Winnie's father is blind. Thank you for always helping Matthew Kunangnat, as he is one of our elders.

I was going to first recognize James Eetoolook, who was my vice-president. My father used to tell me to listen to him because I was elected after he had been elected. When I became president, I could not handle texts on cellphones. I asked James because my father told me to listen to James, "How do I work this cellphone, James?" And then he says, "You will learn how to work it."

>> *Laughter*

I looked at him and there's Raymond Ningeocheak texting to James saying that he's very capable with cellphones. Thank you, James and Paul Irngaut. That's it.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a very rare opportunity for me to acknowledge an individual. I'm very pleased to recognize this individual who was already recognized, James Eetoolook. I will talk briefly about his life.

Back in 1976 when we had moved to Taloyoak, he had been working as the manager of our first Co-op store. Partway through the year he moved to the position as the hamlet council's SAO. After a few years later he moved to NTI. He has been a member of NTI's board of directors since then. He's a tireless worker.

When I saw him during the fishing derby, I shook his hand and he told me to eat and he will feed you. James Eetoolook is very welcoming and receptive. He's a tireless worker in representing his fellow Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. I'm sorry. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr.

Hickes. (interpretation ends) My apologies.

Hon. George Hickes: Apology accepted, Mr. Speaker. No problem.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to first off start off with somebody who hasn't been recognized in this House and it's a senior official with the Department of Finance that I'm responsible for. I know she doesn't like to get any recognition, but I'm going to do it anyway. I would like to formally recognize Alma Power to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to touch upon the comments that my colleague from Rankin Inlet made about Clarence Synard. I have been getting to know Clarence a little bit more over the last few years and we have attended a number of different charity functions together. I just wanted to echo Ms. Towtongie's comment that he is just always a decent human being. I just want to thank Clarence for all the charity work and volunteer work that you do and encourage across the entire territory. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I would like to recognize one of my constituents that are in the audience here that has been recognized a number of times already. I won't be able to do it quite as eloquently as Ms. Angnakak did as I haven't known her as long.

>> *Laughter*

I don't think I have earned the privilege to call you Darlin' Darlene, but...

>> *Laughter*

...I do want to make a point that I know the contributions to education that she has made will be felt for a long time. I would also like to recognize the contributions to music that you have made.

An Hon. Member: Yeah!

>>Applause

Hon. George Hickes: I think those contributions are going to be felt and heard for generations to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to state that I was very proud during an April meeting in Rankin Inlet. We had a (interpretation ends) poverty reduction (interpretation) meeting. When NTI had an office in Ottawa before it was moved here, I used to work for them and James Eetoolook was a board member. I was very proud to take part in the meeting in Rankin Inlet and it's evident that he made his voice heard when we were working on food insecurity. Welcome, James. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I know he has already been recognized, but I had the privilege of working with Mr. Eetoolook when I was with the department of lands in Cambridge Bay. Eetoolook has been instrumental to Nunavummiut. I just want to say "welcome to your House." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I believe there are no more names on my list.

Mr. Eetoolook, Mr. Seeteenak and your spouse, Mr. Synard, Ms. Nuqingaq, and Mr. Akoak, welcome to the gallery. For those visiting in the House, on behalf of my colleagues and Nunavummiut, thank you for providing service to Nunavummiut. We congratulate you on your service and the work you have done as elected officials or through your employment and all of your volunteerism in the communities. Thank you.

>>Applause

Let's proceed. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 190 – 5(2): Public Housing Rent Scale

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and our elder Leonie Putulik. If Pittausaaq

and Alainngaq are listening, I thank them all.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services...no. He's now the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

As the minister is aware, the current public housing rent scale came into effect in the fall of 2013, five years ago. Under the current scale, public housing tenants are assessed rents based on such factors as their income and the size of their units.

Mr. Speaker, Action Item No. 12 in the NHC's *Blueprint for Action on Housing* indicates that "The NHC will review best practices related to various models of subsidized housing as alternatives to rent-geared to income." Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for mentioning the review. The rent scale review and issues associated with that which need to be improved are never ending. Nevertheless, we are looking for the best possible solutions. If there are changes or improvements that need to be made, we will definitely be seeing it in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Appendix 9 of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Rent Scale Procedures Manual* outlines the current rent ceilings. The manual states that "the maximum rent charged for a public housing unit is the rent ceiling. Rent ceilings are based on the Government of Nunavut's staff housing rents."

Mr. Speaker, the previous Minister of Housing informed the House yesterday about the work that the NHC is doing in respect to staff housing. Can he confirm if the NHC will also be reviewing the current rent ceilings for public housing units with the goal of ensuring affordability for residents with lower incomes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. I think there are a lot of things we look at when we're looking at rent scales and affordable rent scales within the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We continually monitor the situation to see where that threshold should be. I just want to assure my colleague that we will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments if and where they need to be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It clearly states here on the rent scale that a one-bedroom unit is \$1,140; a two-bedroom unit is \$1,466.

It's very clear here.

However, I would like to point out that it is important that higher income residents who live in public housing pay a fair share. Reading the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Blueprint for Action on Housing*, it also indicates that "The NHC will review possible development of a fixed-rent subsidized housing model targeting high-income public housing tenants; particularly those currently paying maximum rent in public housing." (interpretation ends) "...paying maximum rent in public housing." (interpretation) I'm sorry for speaking English. Can the minister describe how these changes will work in practice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question. Yes, we are aware of what you're referring to and we're working on it. With respect to the housing issue in Nunavut and what you said, we're presently working on that. We are identifying the changes that will be required and once we have finalized the details of those changes, I'll be able to table it here.

As to what has been discussed on people paying rent or with highest incomes that are in public housing on whether they're appropriate or they're getting too high, if they are too low, those will be pointed out within the review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Question 191 – 5(2): Medical Travel Policy

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I said "good morning" to my fellow residents of Igloolik and the people of Nunavut.

My question will be directed to the Minister of Health.

In the Qikiqtaaluk region many patients stay at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home going to be checked up or to receive medical care here in Iqaluit. Their travel is all by air as there is no other way to get around here in Nunavut. Sometimes the airplanes don't leave and sometimes they're on time.

My question to the minister is: what policies do they have for people who are on medical travel? Is there a policy? For instance, I think the main reason for the question is, so you understand, some who are staying at the boarding home stay here for a very long time, even though they have completed their appointment. Is there a policy in place that once they are seen by the doctor and they finish their appointment, they are sent home early? I would like to get clarification on exactly what the situation is because some people wait for a long time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. It allows me to clarify. Some people do feel that they can stay longer and visit with family and friends. Unfortunately that's not the case. When somebody is cleared medically to travel

back to their home community, it's on the first available flight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for explaining that further. As I stated earlier, some people wait for long periods of time and most communities get daily flights. Flights are usually on time, but some people wait for a long time. Some of them have to rush within that same hour and they are notified and have to go to the airport immediately. They are treated differently. Can they review or give instructions to the medical travel office to follow the policy properly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know sometimes when the medical clearance can come in it can be sometimes early in the day, so flight schedules are accommodated according to the next available flight. It can create a rush, as the member notes. In general we work very hard to make sure that clients can get home as soon as possible after their appointments are done. It is no value to us. In fact it's a cost to us the longer we keep people away from their communities.

The sooner that we can get them back home to their home communities is obviously a fiscal positive, but it's also when the medical situation is done, they need to get back home. We work very hard to make sure that that's accommodated. It can and has created a

rush in some cases to get to the airport and I apologize to anyone if that happens, but we work very hard to get people back to their communities after their medical need to be here is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For medical patients who come to Iqaluit, sometimes the medical travel office only starts the work or does something after they get a call from Ottawa. When they're given instructions from the outside, people from a far distance have to call the medical travel staff and it's only after they call them that they start working on it. This needs to be improved and I would like to reiterate that. As the minister stated, he will look into it again. I'm just encouraging him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quassa, I didn't hear a question, but Minister Hickes, if you would like to comment on that further, I would like to give you the opportunity to do so. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity. I thank the member for raising the issue and it's one of the reasons why we're doing a full review on medical travel. I look forward to bringing some of the results of that back to the House down the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 192 – 5(2): Alternatives to Iqaluit Medical Boarding Facility

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, Paul and I haven't discussed this, but I'll add to his questions on people who come here for medical travel. For the Baffin region, Tammaativvik is the boarding home that they reside in. I have visited that place numerous times because some of my constituents stay there, although I don't inspect it. I was only visiting and we are asked to leave when visiting hours are over and at meal times. Even though I was asked to leave before, I have been joining them for meals. Even though they used to ask me to leave, they're so welcoming that I have meals there and I have even slept there sometimes.

>> *Laughter*

I was escorting a patient and that's what I went through.

Mr. Speaker, there are some real concerns about the boarding home for people who come here on medical travel. Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that I have asked this question many times on whether the boarding home operation can be improved. I'm aware that the Department of Health doesn't operate the building; it's operated by somebody else. I have asked numerous times on what else you can do about the building.

People who are here on medical travel staying at the boarding need to be at a comfortable place. Some of them are not very comfortable. I have stated in the past that some people are allergic to

carpets and the visiting area and the rooms are carpeted. There's only one room that was changed after I expressed my concerns. There's only one room where the carpet was taken out and that is for people who are allergic to carpets.

Mr. Speaker, is the Department of Health planning any alternative place where patients can stay in the future, or what has been done at the boarding home to address our concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this issue for a couple of reasons. One, I do acknowledge and it has been acknowledged that carpets has been an issue. It is up to the contractor themselves to do any modifications or anything. In the meantime they have professionally cleaned those carpets to get rid of any dirt or anything. I realize that may not help in a case of allergies. I would love to work with the member to see if we can find some kind of custom fit for a person if they have severe allergies to the carpet itself.

It also allows me the forum to congratulate the Tammaativvik Boarding Home on the improvements that they have made. I can speak from previous experience that complaints from that facility were almost daily. Now we barely see one a month. They have made some drastic improvements with training of staff to make things more comfortable for residents. They have made a number of different improvements with regard to sign-in sheets for guests, security cameras, and security improvements.

I just want to take this time to publicly thank the operators of the Tammaativvik Boarding Home in recognizing the feedback that members such as Mr. Keyootak has brought in the past forward, that they have been working very hard to... . They're listening. They hear what's going on in here and I have been seeing real results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, the boarding home is always full to capacity and we all know that. Because it's always full, the local hotels are even being filled up by patients. Many patients have to stay in hotel rooms. Ever since the federal government made it so that the partners of pregnant women can be escorts, it has caused capacity issues for the boarding home. The medical patients are well aware of that.

Can the minister indicate to us if there are any plans to expand or build a bigger boarding home or to have a place for a maternity boarding home? Has the Department of Health made any plans along those lines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the contracts that we have for boarding homes and transient centres, the onus is on the contractor to provide the number of beds to meet the need. The maternity escort policy change came upon us very suddenly. I believe I

spoke to it yesterday, how it has created a challenge with almost all of our boarding homes with internal capacity.

The hotel situation in Iqaluit has exaggerated the impact. Hotel space here in the city of Iqaluit is very limited. One of the steps that the boarding home ownership did take is the Nova Group recently purchased the Discovery Hotel here in Iqaluit and they dedicated 15 beds in that facility for medical travel overflow. As well, we have done campaigns requesting billets, people who are open to having medical travel patients stay in their homes at a fair rate. We're taking steps.

I'm sure most members know that there are hotels being constructed here in Iqaluit right now. My hope is that that will alleviate some of the pressures. It doesn't help us today, but at least I can see some recourse down the road. It would be up to the contract recipient on whether he would be looking at expanding his own existing facility right now to meet his needs because it's beneficial for them as well. Whenever the boarding home itself is full, they're responsible for finding these alternate arrangements. It would be a lot better for them to be able to increase their capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response to that. Mr. Speaker, can the Department of Health push this issue further just like what the minister said to expand Tammaativvik? It is clearly too small to serve the

growing number of medical clients and this is causing an increasing number of problems for their care, especially our fragile elders. Elders deserve to be given a higher priority than is the case now.

I have seen many times where our precious elders, especially people with physical disabilities, are not considered a priority. I have seen many times where elders have had to sleep on the hard floor and not even in a bedroom but in the laundry room or even in storage rooms. Our elders and people with disabilities have had to sleep like that. That is very hard to see and we feel very compassionate toward them. We would see things that we would not expect to see if we go there. I have seen this many times. People who are not quite able, elders are not prioritized.

Can this be looked at so that people like that can be made a priority, people who are not so able and elders to make sure that they have a proper place to stay to be considered a priority from people who are not so feeble as the elders? Can this be looked at along the lines of the way I have been talking about? Some people stay where they should not stay at all. Can the minister push the contractors to do something about this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member's comments are well noted and I will dig further into our options of what we can do to make sure that people always have a proper place to stay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 193 – 5(2): Cannabis Sales and Regulation

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

Mr. Speaker, the possession and recreational consumption of cannabis has now been legal in Canada for over a week.

I noted with interest that the minister's counterpart in the Northwest Territories, which has a similar population to ours, announced earlier this week that approximately \$130,000 worth of cannabis was legally sold in that jurisdiction in the first four days of legal sales.

Can our minister give us an approximate figure for how much cannabis has been legally sold to Nunavummiut through the online provider that is currently the sole approved agent for the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's probably going to take you longer to say my title than it is for me to answer the question.

We are going to be getting updates and they're going to be a bit of a lag because it's through a mail order system here, where in NWT they do have in-store

purchasing right in the territory. As of four days ago, it was a little over one kilogram has been ordered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. I'll move on to my next question. One of the reasons why cannabis has been legalized is to take the distribution and sale of the product out of the hands of criminals and put it into the hands of regulated entities. However, in order for this strategy to work in practice, people have to have reasonable legal access to the product, which is why I remain concerned that Nunavut's challenging geography and isolated communities make our current online sales model ultimately unworkable.

Can the minister provide us with a timeline for when the government will expand the range of options for Nunavummiut to include over-the-counter sales? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member is aware, with the legislation that we recently passed, there are still a number of regulations and fine-tuning of licensing an agent, allocation and criteria to be able to go through. We do recognize that the online sales model is not a long-term solution and we are working right now on getting the data together. I'm not anticipating anything within the next six months or so, but I would anticipate inside of a

year we will know exactly with specific timelines on where we are going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. When Nunavut's cannabis legislation was considered by this House during our recent spring sitting, a number of questions were asked about privacy protections for Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that some people may be reluctant to enter into the legal sphere of government-regulated cannabis purchases because of concerns that their privacy will be breached.

I'm going to ask my question in the following way: in the event that the minister himself chooses to legally purchase cannabis from the Government of Nunavut's sales agent, how many people inside and outside of Nunavut will be able to access his personal information from the transaction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a good question. I haven't registered an account just yet. I will say that to my knowledge... . If it's any different, I will get back to the member on it. To my knowledge, the only tracking that we are doing through the contractor is volume and destination. We are not tracking names of account holders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Question 194 – 5(2): Carbon Tax

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

I had quite a few questions and I will have other questions next week when it's not too early and we're more awake.

>> *Laughter*

Today my questions are for the Premier. I want to revisit the issue of the carbon tax that is being imposed on Nunavut by the current federal government.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Minister of Finance told this House that it would be up to the Premier to decide whether or not Nunavut will join with Ontario, Saskatchewan, and other provinces in fighting the federal carbon tax.

My first question to the Premier is pretty simple: will our government join the fight against the federal carbon tax, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of today, we have not signed on or have signed an MOU with the federal government on carbon taxing. We have been doing our best to get our point across that this carbon tax is not going to do what the federal government wants to do in Nunavut.

The federal government's reasoning is that if you pollute, you pay, therefore you will have an alternative source of energy. We don't have an alternative source here in Nunavut. We have to use fossil fuels to heat our houses, to generate electricity for our houses, for aircrafts to take us to and from where we want to go, and bring our supplies in. As of today, as Minister Akeagok said, the generating of electricity should be exempt. We're working on home heating fuel, but we're not getting anywhere on that.

We haven't signed on, but we have not actively said that we're going to join a court case like other provinces. In saying that, we are different here in Nunavut in terms of we're not a province; we're a territory. Our options are limited and the federal government has stated that anyone who doesn't impose their own carbon tax in the territory or province, the backstop that they have will imply. We have to pay income tax whether we like it or not, and they're going to say they're going to impose the carbon tax on us whether we like it or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would assume that as the Premier, he should be the one to decide to join those provinces because it's not good for Nunavut. Our Premier should say that we don't want to see the carbon tax, but it seems like he's just kneeling to the federal government. It doesn't have to go through the courts. We can tell the federal government that this carbon tax is no good for Nunavut, so we oppose it.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Minister of Finance also told the House that the federal government decided not to exempt home heating fuel from the carbon tax. Perhaps they think that we should all go back to heating our homes with qulliqs.

My next question for the Premier is also pretty simple: will he direct his Minister of Finance to introduce a program to ensure that private homeowners in the territory are assisted in paying the extra costs associated with the carbon tax, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a correction on my part. I said Minister Akeegok; it was the Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes who said that statement.

We are still talking with the federal government to negotiate to get home heating fuel exempt in Nunavut. We're still working on it. We have been informed that for the rest of Canada, the carbon tax will start being imposed on everyone on January 1, 2019. Nunavut is going to be exempt until July 2019. We're still working on it and we're still working on options that maybe we could rebate the homeowners, but the first step is to try to get the exemption for home heating fuel for the residents of Nunavut.

We have said as a government here to the federal government that this tax is

not going to do what the federal government wants it to in Nunavut. Everything is just going to cost more. We're going to pay more for our food, we're going to pay more for our transportation, and we're going to pay more for everything because we do not have alternatives.

If we shut off the diesel, we will be living in a cold, dark house. I have explained to the federal government that this is just a tax for us in Nunavut and nothing else. It's not going to get the desired results the federal government is hoping. If we had alternative energy sources, then maybe it would work, but we don't and that's all we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the Premier for talking to the federal government.

My last question is, I am glad that the federal government did decide to show us some mercy and exempt aviation fuel and diesel that are used for electricity generation from the carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, although the current federal government may think that gasoline is used only to fuel SUVs in Nunavut, they have neglected to take into consideration our territory's subsistence hunters who need gasoline to power their machines, skidoos, Hondas, and boats.

My last question for the Premier is also pretty simple: will he direct his Minister of Environment to help subsistence

hunters in addressing the extra costs that will be generated or added to the territorial hunters of Nunavut, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we know exactly how this tax will be imposed and on what products, we will go from there. Yes, we can look at helping out subsistence hunters. We can look at helping out Nunavut residents for their home heating fuel. All options will be looked at. We don't want the people of Nunavut to have to have even more hardships than they have right now.

We know people have a hard time buying fuel for their houses. We know people have a hard time buying gasoline to go out and hunt and get food for the family. We are compassionate and we will look at all options to help Nunavummiut when this very unfair tax is imposed on us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 195 – 5(2): Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I stated that I was going to be asking questions about caribou, so I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the latest issue of the *Caribou News in Brief*

from the Beverly Qamanirjuaq caribou management herd has a section on the status of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds and I'll quote from this latest issue. With regard to the Qamanirjuaq herd it says, "...the 2017 population estimate is slightly higher than the 2014 estimate, it still indicates a continued slow decline. The survey points to a decline of about 2% per year since 2008." With regard to the Beverly herd it says in here, the GN's representative on the BQCMB is quoted as saying, "All the indicators point to a steep decline." It also says that "The GN is conducting another population survey on the Beverly herd this June."

Can the minister provide an update with regard to her latest information regarding the status of these herds in terms of the population estimates? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Main, for your question. The June 2018 Beverly caribou herd survey was completed on June 22, 2018 and the results of the survey are currently in the analysis phase. Final results should be available at the end of this month, October 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I look forward to hearing the minister discuss those results

in the House because we still will be in session.

Another concerning thing with regard to these herds is the proposed species at risk threatened designation by the Government of Canada for all barren-ground caribou herds in Canada. With regard to this process, it's my understanding that the federal pre-listing consultation process has begun. This is in the past tense. It says here that "...comments will be accepted until October 2018."

With regard to this pre-listing consultation process, what is the Department of Environment's position and what information have they provided to the federal government regarding this proposed listing? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment is working with the Government of Canada and will have updates after this sitting. The Department of Environment will be attending the Beverly Qamaniq caribou management board meetings and the herds will be discussed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) One of the things that are mentioned in here regarding this proposed species at risk threatened designation is automatic harvest restrictions. As somebody who

represents a lot of caribou hunters, it's quite concerning to see that language. I'll correct myself, automatic prohibitions on harvests.

In the event that the barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*, what will this mean for caribou hunters across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this time I don't have that detail of information for you, but I can get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 196 – 5(2): Midwives in Nunavut

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow residents of Amittuq. This morning we have been directing our questions to the Minister of Health quite frequently and I will also be directing my question to him.

This is an issue that was brought up in the spring session regarding midwifery. My first question is: since you became the Minister of Health, have you looked at the issue of bringing midwifery up here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking the question. I touched on it a little bit during my appearance in Committee of the Whole the other day. We do have midwives in Nunavut. To me it has been an underutilized service. Midwives can provide a lot of advice to expectant mothers in the prenatal care to make sure that the babies are healthy when they're born and helping mothers after. We do have midwives practising in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. We do have positions here that I am looking at here in Iqaluit.

I would like to emphasize one of the successes that we have seen already in the Kitikmeot where the midwifery program is a little bit more mature, where they have been actually going out to the communities and doing visits to expectant mothers. That has been a very well-received service that has been provided to some of the smaller communities, such as Gjoa Haven. It is something that I'm very cognizant of and I very much would like to see rolled out on a broader basis.

In answer to the question, yes, it is something that I'm looking at since I have re-become the Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased. I just want to further state that I have a daughter, but I call her my sister. She was born in our community without a midwife. She is now five years old, she is healthy, going to school, and she's happy.

One thing that the government should be paying more close attention to is the need to strengthen *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in order to have a more positive impact in the smaller communities with respect to the provision of services. As the Member for Uqqummiut stated, the boarding home is insufficient now as it's filled to capacity all the time. If you can bring this program out to the smaller communities, maybe the boarding home will not be filled to capacity and we would be providing better services. As the member said, he's concerned about the elders and patients, as I am too.

As you have stated that the midwives visit the communities, have you set up a priority in visiting the smaller communities? You mentioned Gjoa Haven. It's a larger community than the smaller communities such as mine. Will you start a training program for midwifery in the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member. The more services we can provide in-community, the better. It would alleviate a lot of the burden on boarding homes if people were able to have children in their home community, especially low-risk expectant mothers. Midwifery has been a part of our culture forever and ever and ever. I remember my grandmother talking about midwives back in the day. It is a little bit more complicated in today's world.

There used to be a training program, a midwifery program through Nunavut

Arctic College that was dropped a number of years back. I don't know all the reasoning behind that. Staffing the midwifery PYs that we have here in Iqaluit is something that, again, I'm looking at. It has been a fairly short period of time, but I'm sure my deputy minister and my staff upstairs can attest that that topic has been brought up more than once. I can assure the member that this will continue to be a focus of mine on working to find improvements and partnerships to provide further midwifery services across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his clarification. Yes, midwifery has been our tradition prior to the doctors and nurses arriving to our communities. We were born in tents and sod houses. We now have elders living around who were born that way.

I would like to urge the Minister of Health, rather than looking at your stumbling blocks, look at the positive side. There are some positives because women are very powerful and capable. I'm wearing something that was made by a woman. That's exactly how they are. They are very capable.

With that, I urge you as the minister to look into that to see if you can have that program in the smaller communities because we lack employment opportunities. Although this may not be much of a question, I would like to urge the minister to look into this more to make sure that the midwifery program is made available in Nunavut. It's not a

question, but it's up to the minister if he wants to respond to my comment.

I urge the minister to make sure that a midwifery program is set up in Nunavut, looking at the pregnant women on maternity leave, being homesick and their small children missing their mothers. These are some issues that I can look into, but you supported me last spring in regard to midwifery. I urge you to make sure that this program is rolled out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question directly, but Mr. Kaernerck, as Speaker, I will leave it up to the minister to respond. I give you the discretion, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to reiterate what I was saying earlier, it is on my radar and we are evaluating different options that will be available to roll out to more communities across the territory. I just want to assure the member that, as I spoke to him earlier this year on promoting midwifery, I'll continue to do it from this side of the House as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 197 – 5(2): Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act

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

As the minister is well aware, federal legislation to legalize the recreational consumption of cannabis came into force

across the country last week. As mentioned by my colleague, Mr. Lightstone, one of the federal government's stated reasons for legalizing this substance was to take its distribution and sale out of the hands of criminals and ensure that it is tightly regulated.

Mr. Speaker, this is why it is more important than ever that our made-in-Nunavut *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, which you, Mr. Speaker, and I had the honour of passing into law during the previous Legislative Assembly, be brought into force as soon as possible, as that law provides the government with important tools with which to fight bootleggers and illegal drug dealers.

Mr. Speaker, my first question for the minister is this: why has the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* not yet been brought into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Good point.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Akoak, for your question. Mr. Akoak is correct. The *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* was passed unanimously in March of 2017 to target bootlegging and drug dealing. The department is all set to go. All the job descriptions are done, the office is all set up waiting to be staffed, and right now it is in the hands of the Department of Finance under Human Resources so that we can fill the position of the director. Before we hire any of the staff, we want to hire the director first. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Section 33, which is on page 18, of the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* provides for the creation of a new special fund called the "Forfeiture Fund." The purpose of this fund is to provide support to community wellness programs, which is very important to small communities all over Nunavut, and other recipients. What progress has her department made in drafting the new regulations under this Act that are required to bring this fund into operation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Justice is working on the legislation for and policies on how these forfeiture funds will be administered. Like I stated earlier, as soon as a director has been filled, those are some of the first priorities that he will work on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She answered my last question in part earlier. Earlier this year the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that her department was working on securing office space for the new civil forfeiture office and writing job descriptions for its staff. What progress has been made in these areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I stated earlier, the job descriptions are completed. The offices are waiting to be filled, but before we can hire any of the staff, we would like to hire the director first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 198 – 5(2): Status of Sanikiluaq’s Community Learning Centre

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq and the people of Nunavut.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will know, Nunavut Arctic College’s community learning centre in Sanikiluaq is currently operated out of the elementary school. However, the lease for that space will expire in 2019.

Could the minister clearly explain what efforts are being made to extend the lease agreement for the community learning centre in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member from Sanikiluaq for his question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we work with Community and Government Services regarding our needs for learning facilities. Through their contracting, procurement, and lease that we need to extend or if we are looking at a new office or learning facilities, we work with them, but I’ll see if we can get some clear answers on Mr. Rumbolt’s question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Considering that the minister has to get back to me on information, I’m not sure if he’s going to have the following information that I am requesting, but I will try anyway.

Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate that extending the lease may be the preferred option from the college’s perspective, with the growing student population in Sanikiluaq and over 50 new kindergarteners starting entering the system next year, from the school’s perspective there will probably be a need for extra classroom space.

Can the minister describe what options will be available to the community learning centre if classroom space is no longer available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the

supplementary. We will see what we can do and in the case in Sanikiluaq, I understand there's a need for more office space in the community. Maybe there is an opportunity through the municipality. We will look at different options and see what would be the best way to address the space requirements for learners, not just for the school but our adult learners for Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, this lease agreement is up in 2019, which is not that far away, and there is going to be a need for space for Arctic College in early September of next year and the minister did state that they will look into it. How soon will the minister be looking into this issue and when will he be able to get information back to me on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for his question. I hope we can get clarification on Mr. Rumbolt's question later this sitting and again, I'll work with my staff to get clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, please note that the time for question period has expired and that I have no more names on my list. We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Item 10: Petitions
Petition 003 – 5(2): New School for Coral Harbour

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition signed by my constituents regarding our school.

Our school is not new and the students and employees have been getting sick. It is of concern to residents due to the age of the school and they petitioned and would like it replaced.

We look forward to a positive response from the government on this request for a new school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Mr. Main.

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

Committee Report 004 – 5(2): Bill 2, Chartered Professional Accountants Act

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 2, *Chartered Professional Accountants Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 2, as amended and as reprinted, will

appear on the order paper on Monday, October 29.

Reports of Standing Committees on Bills and Other Matters. There are no more. Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to go back to Item 5, which is Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member Ehaloak is asking for unanimous consent to return to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm very happy to recognize two of my constituents from my home community who represent all of Kitikmeot through the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Mr. President Stanley Anablak and his Executive Director, Paul Emingak. Welcome to your House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Anablak and Mr. Emingak, welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Good morning, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

I rise today to recognize my uncle Stanley Anablak, KIA president, and Paul Emingak, his Executive Director. Welcome to the House. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to you again.

>> *Laughter*

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Tabling of Documents. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 062 – 5(2):
Photographs of Coral Harbour
School**

**Tabled Document 063 – 5(2): Letters
from Coral Harbour Parents**

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have two sets of tabling documents. Do you want me to do them at the same time or one at a time?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table today photographs which clearly show the wet, swampy and mould-creating conditions at the Coral Harbour Sakku School. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) it is no wonder that parents and residents of Coral Harbour are concerned with the dilapidated condition of the school. I'll have

questions regarding this issue next week.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I'm also tabling a series of letters from parents addressed to me and the district education authority concerning our school. I'll also have questions on this issue next week when we are more awake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Thank you, members. Today I have nine documents to table today. Oh my goodness.

Some Hon. Members (interpretation): Oh my goodness.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: It's Friday morning, okay?

>> *Laughter*

Tabled Document 064 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut and Report on the Beer and Wine Store Plebiscites for Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet

Tabled Document 065 – 5(2): Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut on the Conduct of the 5th Nunavut General Election

Tabled Document 066 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Tabled Document 067 – 5(2): Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut Regarding an Allegation of Conflict of Interest against the Honourable David Akeagok, MLA

Tabled Document 068 – 5(2): 2018-2019 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut, Part 1

Tabled Document 069 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Tabled Document 070 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth

Tabled Document 071 – 5(2): Actuarial Valuation of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act as at April 1, 2017

Tabled Document 072 – 5(2): Actuarial Valuation of the Legislative Assembly Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act as at April 1, 2017

The first document is the 2017-18 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer and Report on the Beer and Wine Store Plebiscites for Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet.

The second document is the Chief Electoral Officer's Report on the Conduct of the Fifth General Assembly Election.

The third document is the 2017-18 *Annual Report of the Information and*

Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

The fourth and fifth documents are the Reports of the Integrity Commissioner under sections 40 and 57 of the *Integrity Act*.

The sixth document is the 2017-18 *Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut*.

The seventh document is the 2017-18 *Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth*.

The eighth and ninth documents are the Actuarial Valuations of the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

(interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Notices of Motions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 015 – 5(2): Censure of Executive Council – Notice

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, October 29, 2016, that I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by MLA from Aggu, that the Executive Council of Nunavut be censured.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First

Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act – First Reading

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 9, 10, and 11 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will now take a 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:14 and Committee resumed at 11:26*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good morning, members. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Before we get started, I would like to ask... . Sorry.

In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 9, 10, and 11. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of Bill 9 and the capital main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 09 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2019-2020 – Nunavut Housing
Corporation – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. As this is a continuation from yesterday, we were dealing with the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital estimates. Before we get started, I would like to ask Minister Kusugak if he has any witnesses he would like to bring to the table. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of witnesses that I would

like to join with me with your permission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the committee agree that the witnesses go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Kusugak, could you please introduce your witnesses. Thank you.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Curtis Allaby, the Acting Vice-president and Chief Financial Officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my right is Mr. Terry Audla, President and CEO of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Welcome to your officials. We are currently on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's main estimates on page L-3. Before we start, Minister Kusugak, you wanted to make a comment. Please go ahead.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to clarify. Yesterday after a brief discussion with Mr. Netser, I just wanted to clarify a response that I gave him. He had asked if the fire damage that was done to a unit in his riding was going to be replaced with fire damage replacement funds. I had said that yes, it will be. I just want to clarify that from this fund, they already were underway to knock down the burnt unit. Through this fund, the unit will be

replaced. It will be identified in the 2020-21 budget, but it will come from this fire damage program. I just wanted to make that clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. We were on questions yesterday for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget and today we will start with Ms. Nakashuk. Please go ahead.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, minister (interpretation ends) and staff. (interpretation) Welcome.

The first question I would like to ask is if the minister can confirm how many new staff housing units are being planned to be constructed in Pangnirtung during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Pangnirtung we are going to be building five new staff housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have been talking about the units that are going to be built this year. MLAs have been concerned about the staff housing units in decentralized communities that have remained vacant for many years. Can the minister clarify how the number of new staff housing units in Pangnirtung was determined?

(interpretation ends) What was the decision in terms of how this will be done?

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Ms. Nakashuk for that very good question. Whenever the government opens up a project in a community, if a job gets opened in a community and that job has housing attached to it, the job goes to competition when there is staff housing available. The process can be quite lengthy.

However, we're now under discussion with different groups within the government about staff housing and trying to make accommodations for the positions. We are working with the Department of Finance to see how we can improve it and speed up the process so that there is staff housing available for the positions that need to be filled. That's what we are working on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you for explaining that. I stated earlier that what is discussed is the fact that staff housing units remain vacant for long periods of time. How many staff housing units in Pangnirtung are currently vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now in Pangnirtung they're trying to fill nine positions and there are five vacant staff housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I understand that there are nine positions posted in the government for Pangnirtung. I'm not sure where the NHC is working in terms of with HR department because the last time I met with the local housing corporation, looking at their list, there were about nine empty units just in the last couple of weeks. I just don't understand and the community doesn't understand, when we're requesting for public housing, that more staff housing is being requested.

(interpretation) I wonder when those vacant positions will be filled because those housing units have been vacant for a very long time. It's always confusing for people from Pangnirtung when there's a lack of housing and there are these vacant units. My question is: how does the housing corporation work with HR and local housing organizations to put people into these vacant units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. HR follows their procedures whenever a position is open until it is filled. We don't handle that under the housing corporation when HR is trying to hire people. We also

can't tell them how to speed up the process. We only try to make sure that there is housing available in a community where a position will be open. We're just trying to make sure that there is staff housing available.

We always work together with the other department. Sometimes there are delays in trying to fill positions due to various reasons. I can't speak to that, but I can say that as the housing corporation, we have to try to make staff housing available for positions that require it, following our responsibilities and policies. I hope that makes sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you for explaining that. It's obvious that needs to be improved because it's a challenge for the communities, especially for the housing associations.

I thank the housing corporation. The housing corporation did something they don't normally do and they gave the Pangnirtung Housing Association some housing units this spring. I think a four-plex was transferred. We thank them for this and now the housing association is taking on these units. It's my understanding that the tenants will be moving in after some minor renovations.

My question is whether more arrangements like this can be made or to have more transfers to public housing from the staff housing stock. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear your comment about working more closely together in Nunavut. We hear and we listen to problems in communities from members and people out there in the communities saying that the housing corporation or government houses sit empty while the need of the homeless is large. Following this discussion, we transferred GN housing to the local housing association to add to the public housing stock in Pangnirtung.

The ongoing review and evaluation and to show we are listening must be able to open new doors, but the situations will be different in each community. We will transfer housing units wherever possible depending on the different circumstances. We will look to see if we can create synergies where houses can be transferred. I think we all have the same goal regarding this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, minister, for supporting this. My question is regarding possible transfers to LHOs and staff housing. The proposed new construction for 2019-2020 has been approved by the NHC board. Have your requests been approved by cabinet or the (interpretation ends) Financial Management Board? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation) Thank you. The plans for new

construction will be revealed soon as the tenders for those will be opened shortly. The tenders for construction are now being prepared and how the housing units will be purchased. We are now working on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. As a final comment, I want to mention something my fellow member spoke to yesterday regarding the need to hire more Inuit in communities. This has to be given major priority. I wish to push and support this.

In Pangnirtung there were some construction projects with our new Co-op and renovations to the Northern Store. It was really noticeable to see outside workers brought in. These buildings are not owned by the government, but I feel we need to push to hire more local Inuit instead of flying in a work crew. For simple things like carpentry, many carpenters have come from Russia. That was really strange for me. I flew with them here, those people who went to do work in Pangnirtung. None of them were from Pangnirtung.

I really encourage the government through RFPs, any construction that is under the government, to look into this further, as one of my colleagues mentioned, to have (interpretation ends) at least up to 50 percent or 40 percent of Inuit employment. (interpretation) That's all I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. I realize you said that was just a comment,

so I will move on to the next person for questions on my list, which is Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I would like to see if the house that Kugluktuk recently lost to fire will also be replaced with the Fire Damage Replacement Fund as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Mr. Chairman, yes, it will go through the same process of fire damage replacement. At this point I just can't tell her at which year and when I have that available, I would be more than happy to share it with her, but it will go through that funding cycle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Moving on, the NHC's capital project substantiation sheet for its local housing organization workshop, warehouse and administrative office projects indicates that the corporation issued a request for proposals earlier this year to complete the assessment of current LHO office facilities in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Arviat, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, and Sanikiluaq. The RFP closed on April 30, 2018. What were the results of this assessment? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak.

Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently working on that and we are hoping that we will have the details pertaining to that RFP by the end of this month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. When that report is complete, will that be provided to MLAs, whether through tabling or to the MLAs? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is available for that, most certainly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that it's almost lunch, so I would like to take an opportunity now to recognize the clock, or I may proceed?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday I brought up the issue of instant or on-demand water heaters. My first question is going to be with the upcoming RFP for the 2019-2020 construction of public and staff housing units. Will that RFP include hot water tanks or instant or on-demand tankless water heaters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your attempt to go for lunch. I almost seconded your motion.

Mr. Chairman, at this time we are working with the current planning and designs that we do use and we will be continuing to use the hot water tank for the current heating system until such time that we deem the instant hot water tanks are the way to go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Unfortunately when the government takes on projects to make their assets more efficient, it is more costly than to actually incorporate it into the original plans from the beginning. I would hope that the minister would take that into consideration before releasing that RFP to discuss that with cabinet and to make the decision to adopt these more efficient models. Would the minister like to comment on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to comment. Mr. Chairman, the current system we have right now is pretty efficient. When we start with the amount of houses we have to build and the current heating system for water we have right now, it is working fine.

I think we still need to take a look to prove that the on-demand hot water system is actually more efficient in the long run. We have to run those analyses. We have to ensure that that is the way to go, especially when the system we have right now for the amount of houses that

have to be heated at any one time is quite different than an instant hot water on-demand system for a single family dwelling with four people in it.

We have to go through all the analyses to ensure that that same system which works great for a single dwelling is one that will work in a 12-plex with 50 to 60 people in it taking showers and showers. It has to go through some kind of critique and audit. Once we go through that and that is the way to go, we will go there, but at this time the system we have right now is sufficient. I'll be glad to keep my colleague updated as to the progress of that kind of work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. Thank you, two, too. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses from the table. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Moving on with the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 9 and the capital estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Moving on. Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Full Caucus at half past one this afternoon in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 29:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions

9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 14 – 5(2)
 - Motion 15 – 5(2)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 12
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 9
 - Bill 10
 - Bill 11
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Before we adjourn, on behalf of my

colleagues, let me thank our pages for this week. If I mispronounce their names, I apologize. They are: Alexis Vincent-Wolfe, Beatrice Ikkidluak, Ika Vincent, and Jaiden Natanine. I thank you all.

>>*Applause*

We wouldn't be able to hold our House if we didn't have the support of our staff on the third and second floors, especially our support staff, the technicians and most of all, the interpreters. If they weren't here, we wouldn't be able to proceed with the House.

>>*Applause*

Thank you. I hope Nunavummiut and members have a safe weekend and we will see you again on Monday.

This House stands adjourned until Monday, October 29, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:57*

