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Speaker: The Honourable Simeon Mikkungwak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Aggu)

Allan Rumbolt
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, June 3, 2019**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. George Hickers, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joelle Kaerner, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>> *House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): I ask that Member Netser say the opening prayer.

>> *Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Netser, for saying the opening prayer.

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) In the minister's absence, Acting Government House Leader, Minister Netser.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 239 – 5(2):
Minister Absent from the House**

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I wish to advise members that the Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik will be absent from the House today, June 3, 2019, to attend the release of the final report on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 240 – 5(2):
Environment Week 2019**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to invite the people of Nunavut to join me in celebrating Canadian Environment Week from June 3 to 9, 2019.

During this week the Department of Environment staff will visit schools each day, educating students about different aspects of environmental stewardship, caution and protection. We are dedicated to ensuring everybody in our territory can participate, so we have recruited teachers and conservation officers to help spread the word.

Mr. Speaker, aside from daily visits to the schools, the department will also host daily social media challenges for Nunavummiut. These posts will include trivia, riddles, and best photos contests with subjects ranging from energy efficiency to recycling and reusing resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am always excited to have the opportunity and special events to showcase the beauty of our land and to educate Nunavummiut on how we can protect it.

I encourage my fellow members to participate and encourage their

constituents to join in the fun. Let's keep our land and animals healthy for generations to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

**Minister's Statement 241 – 5(2):
Anijaarniq Wayfinding Website**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my fellow members of the development of the Anijaarniq Inuit Land Skills and Wayfinding website that will be launched shortly by Nunavut Arctic College Media. It is based on the skills used by hunters, such as reading the wind direction by the direction of snow tongues formed by the wind that Inuit used and continue to use today. I will speak to these items as I will speak to this website, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut Arctic College doesn't want to be blamed if any hunters become lost.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to inform my fellow members of the development of the Anijaarniq Inuit Land Skills and Wayfinding website that will shortly be launched by Nunavut Arctic College. This site introduces some of the knowledge and skills you need when going out on the land, especially during the winter and spring.

Mr. Speaker, elders always say that springtime and fall time are the main causes of hunters dying from not being prepared because the weather that

changes drastically in moments. The information is divided into five main sections: Winds, Snow and Snowdrifts, Sea Ice, Stars, and Travel. Visitors to the site are guided through each of the themes by the voices of Igloodik elders.

Mr. Speaker, all of the information you see on the site comes from recorded interviews collected by the Oral History Project, a project where Inuit elders worked in cooperation with the staff of the Igloodik Research Centre, who started this oral history project in 1986. I believe the late Leah Otak spearheaded this project, if I'm correct, and the member from Igloodik nodded. (interpretation) She led that initiative, Mr. Speaker, so we will all know she created the oral history project. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) The material on the site is not intended to replace the practical knowledge gained by going out on the land with experienced hunters. Instead, the information here helps you to become more observant when you travel over snow and ice and shows you what you have to know to make your trip comfortable and safe.

Above all, this website is a digital reservoir of our traditions, values, and practical knowledge for the benefit of future generations to come.

(interpretation) I recall the many times I accompanied my father hunting. Mr. Speaker, he would bring me along to check his fox trap lines. I was very close to my father.

When it became a whiteout during our return trips, back then we didn't have GPS or SPOT devices, so he would read the direction of the snow tongues by

checking their orientation and then he would say, “Our home is in that direction.” We never got lost and always made it back home, as my father was a very capable hunter. I have learned some of the traditional skills, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I read this already, but I’ll read it again, just for your clarification.

>> *Laughter*

Above all, the website is a digital reservoir of our traditions, values, and practical knowledge for the benefit of future generations to come. It is a website that represents the commitment of this government to ensure that government programs and services are more effective and relevant through *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values as outlined in the *Inuunivut* section of our *Turaaqtavut* mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleges... colleagues... colleges...

>> *Laughter*

...colleagues to join me in giving thanks to the researchers, website designers, and most importantly, the elders who worked so hard to make this project a success. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Minister’s Statement 242 – 5(2):
Enhanced Baby Bed Program**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a great program at the Department of Health.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Baby Bed Program was first implemented across the territory in October 2016. In line with *Inuusivut*, the baby bed program also strengthens the maternal and child health system in Nunavut, promoting general infant health and maternal wellness.

Mr. Speaker, through this program, all newborn Nunavummiut have access to a baby bed. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to sign up for the program through their health care provider. When the baby bed packages are distributed, nurses and/or midwives also provide short educational sessions to parents and caregivers.

Mr. Speaker, the response from communities has been very positive. Parents and caregivers have expressed their excitement about the bed and supplies. In 2018 the Baby Bed Program was evaluated based on feedback received from health care providers involved in the program. Mr. Speaker, in the first year of the program approximately 600 beds were distributed. Overall everyone who responded with feedback was in support of continuing the program. Midwives have reported that this is a much-needed program.

Mr. Speaker and members, I am happy to share that in 2018-19 over 1,000 baby beds were delivered. We have recently extended the Baby Bed Program for another three years until March 31, 2022. Baby beds can be pre-ordered at

your community health centre or birthing centre, and parents or caregivers can sign up for the program at their prenatal appointment with their health care provider.

Mr. Speaker and members, in addition to increasing the number of baby beds distributed, program improvements include changes in the ordering and adding recommended items to the bed like medicated diaper cream, teething ring, and warm clothing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to applaud the efforts behind this successful program, as it is thanks to the hard work and dedication of our nurses, midwives, and Department of Health staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 243 – 5(2):
National Indigenous History
Month**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, as I am here once again, I say "good day" to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, I rise today to inform my colleagues about National Indigenous History Month. It's held in June every year since 2009.

National Indigenous History Month is an opportunity for Canadians to learn about the history of Canada's indigenous peoples; our traditions, cultures,

languages, and the importance of reconciliation. Here in Nunavut the importance of understanding the long-term effects of colonialism and the intergenerational consequences of residential school is critical.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit contribute to the rich and vibrant fabric of indigenous life across our vast country. We have firm roots from the east to the far west and all around the Hudson Bay. We enrich urban centres across the south as well.

Nunavut Inuit are a powerful example of success, resiliency, and progress. The *Nunavut Agreement* is the largest land claims agreement in Canada's history and still serves as a best practice and inspiration for many around the country and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Nunavut Inuit to share their culture, history, and experiences this June. I encourage Nunavummiut and all Canadians to listen with respect and interest of our history in Canada's history. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Minister's Statement 244 – 5(2):
Inuktitut Language Arts
Curriculum**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to all Nunavummiut and members.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is developing made-in-

Nunavut solutions to language instruction, particularly around Inuktitut Language Arts curriculum.

(interpretation ends) To address the diverse language needs of our communities, my department is developing several Inuktitut Language Arts curricula. The Inuktitut Language Arts, First Language, also known as ILA1, curriculum for grades kindergarten through grade 6 will be field tested in the 2019-2020 academic year. The Inuktitut Language Arts, First Language Transition, also known as ILA1-T, curriculum for grades kindergarten through grade 6 will be completed this fall.

The Inuktitut Language Arts, First Language curriculum is designed for schools where Inuktitut is the first language of the community, whereas the Inuktitut Language Arts, First Language Transition curriculum is designed for schools where Inuktitut is still the community's first language but a revitalization approach is required to stop language erosion.

This past March the curriculum working group met in Iqaluit to develop the Inuktitut Language Arts as a Second Language curriculum, also known as ILA2.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of developing the Inuktitut Language Arts, Second Language curriculum is to enhance bilingual education by assisting students, parents, and community members who have experienced language loss and who require focused instruction in Inuktitut literacy to regain language fluency. This curriculum will also support Inuktitut literacy skill development in families

where English or French is the first language.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, 2019 is the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages. My department is especially proud that they have created these Inuktitut Language Arts curricula to support bilingual education in Nunavut. By including a second-language curriculum in this work, my department is supporting all Nunavummiut to strengthen, regain, or master Inuktitut language skills.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a second meeting of the Inuktitut Language Arts as a Second Language working group will take place this summer, with representatives from Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, the Department of Culture and Heritage and supported by Inuit linguists.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to announcing the completion of these curricula. This important work represents a significant achievement for Nunavut and supports the protection of Inuktitut and our goal of bilingual education in our territory.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 245 – 5(2):
Recognition to Partners of the
Therapeutic Justice Program**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As my colleague mentioned in the

House last fall, on April 1, 2019 the Department of Justice launched the Therapeutic Justice Pilot Program in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, while both the court process and restorative justice processes exist in Nunavut, we have seen first-hand and have consistently heard from Nunavummiut that a gap still exists within the justice system. The Therapeutic Justice Program is a creative, community-based program designed to meet the specific needs of those who have experienced trauma or are struggling with mental health issues and addictions. We believe that a specialized approach is required for such individuals.

Referrals to the Therapeutic Justice Program are made by RCMP officers as pre-charge referrals and by Crown prosecutors and defence lawyers as post-charge referrals. Since April 1 two clients have already been referred to the program.

Mr. Speaker, the work to design and implement the program would not have been possible without the support and partnership of community, our partners for the program; Cambridge Bay Department of Healthy Living, the RCMP, the Public Prosecution Service Canada, the Legal Services Board, the Department of Health, and last but not least, our cultural and elder advisors for the program.

Mr. Speaker, this program complements the *Turaaqtavut* mandate priority of *Inuusivut*, which commits us to work together towards the well-being and self-reliance of our people and our communities. We look forward to

continued collaboration going forward with communities and our various partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 368 – 5(2): Congratulations to Sanikiluaq's Nunavut Sivuniksavut Students

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two students from Sanikiluaq who have just completed their first year at Nunavut Sivuniksavut in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier in this sitting, a number of constituents, many of them Nunavut Sivuniksavut graduates, wrote to their MLAs in support of the program. I am glad that the government will continue to provide funding for this important post-secondary institution.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Jaani Audla and Johnny Sappa Cookie for completing their first year in the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program.

Mr. Speaker, having the opportunity to live in a supportive environment away from home, earning credits towards post-secondary education, while also focusing on topics that reinforce the Nunavut identity and knowledge can make a

world of difference in the future prospects for Nunavut's youth.

Graduating from high school is one important step. Continuing with post-secondary education is an important second step.

I congratulate these youth on their perseverance and determination. I encourage them and all Nunavut youth who are pursuing higher education to keep following their dreams and hard work and dedication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

**Member's Statement 369 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Graduates**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate this year's graduates from the community of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, a ceremony was held at the Qiqirtaq Ilihakvik High School this past Friday evening. I would like to thank everyone in the community who took the time to attend the ceremony and show their pride and support in this year's graduates.

Mr. Speaker, this year's graduates are:

- Earl Hatkaiittuq Akoak;
- Ethan Avingaqjuaq Akoak;
- Melissa Aqnaaluk Arqviq;
- Tamara Puyuaq Iqallik;

- Cody Aknayak Kogvik;
- Michael Amikuq Mariq;
- Danny Niptayuk Nalungiaq;
- Alvin Palla Oogak;
- Maiya Qillaq Porter;
- Jordan Ihuamnaaq Hillier Takkiruk;
- Braidy Paniak Tungilik; and
- Serge Alikamik Tuktoo.

Mr. Speaker, we often say that graduation is just the first step in the journey of a lifelong journey. I wish every one of our graduates a great future.

If I may add, without the help of our teachers they would not be getting this far. In saying that, I would like to also congratulate long-term service awards awarded to three teachers:

- Juliet Uyarrai, 10 years' service;
- Annie Akoak, 15 years' service; and
- Paul Cipriano, 10 years' service.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerik.

**Member's Statement 370 – 5(2):
Addressing Education**

Mr. Kaernerik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Amittuq.

I rise today to talk about education. During my election campaign, I said that I would work hard on education. It is always challenging as a parent when you

have children who are going to school. It makes one very happy when they want to get up in the morning, and sometimes it becomes a little hard as a parent.

>> *Laughter*

Another matter I enjoy is when students and young people graduate. I encourage you to pursue more education as this is the first step. The government approved funding for Nunavut Sivuniksavut for students who take training down in Ottawa. These are all steps to improve one's self. When you graduate, aim for higher education, as graduation and education are a cause of concern to many Inuit.

This applies especially for students who were socially passed where they no longer follow the grade level minimums and they get promoted due to their age. When I see this, I personally believe that practice should be done away with. The students should not be passed, especially at the grade 9 and grade 10 levels without following the minimum grade level requirements. Many people are disappointed by this.

When we were in school, we had to complete all of our schoolwork and if you didn't pass, you stayed at the same grade as they followed the rules for minimum grade levels, especially when it came to English literacy and mathematics. We had to pass those classes in order to move up.

I think the Department of Education needs to revisit this issue for students who are promoted without passing their grade level, yet should be receiving the minimum in order to pass. How can we teach them?

Mr. Speaker, when we reach question period, I will have questions for the Minister of Education on what we can do to address this issue and have the department offer options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 371 – 5(2):
Addressing Housing Issues**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Whale Cove and Arviat who are watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I will read what our Member of Parliament, Hunter Tootoo, said on May 1 in the House of Commons. He had a question for our Prime Minister. I will read the question, which is asked in English. (interpretation ends) "Recently, the government generously funded ITK to tackle critical issues facing the Inuit in Canada, like housing and health care. The problem is the majority of Canada's Inuit live in Nunavut. The Government of Nunavut has been cut out of the strategic planning and cut off from the funding. The Government of Nunavut is responsible for the delivery of programs and services, not ITK. Therefore, this makes no sense whatsoever."

(interpretation) That is a very good question, I believe, and we are eager to receive more information as to how the federal government is operating now. Using housing as an example, this document was brought out, the

(interpretation ends) *Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy*. (interpretation) Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami produced this document, but reading it, how would the ideas be made into reality in Nunavut? I don't see how they can do that.

Maybe there should be two different (interpretation ends) housing corporations (interpretation) in Nunavut. Has the housing corporation taken part in this planning or is money going to be taken out of the housing corporation for this new organization? I'm confused. Once I have the opportunity, I will have questions to the minister to ask for more information on what it will mean when this is implemented in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

**Member's Statement 372 – 5(2):
National Inquiry into Missing and
Murdered Indigenous Women and
Girls**

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of my community and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my pride of indigenous people who spent today, yesterday, and over the weekend where many representatives attended the announcement of the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Due to release of this report and with this inquiry taking place over many

years, those of us who live in Nunavut are also deeply impacted. There are many people who have worked with the inquiry and who went to give statements during the inquiry process. I wanted to voice my appreciation to them.

It's important to remember the principle of healthy relationships amongst our people, as we are trying to follow these ideals, and I further urge my fellow Nunavummiut and other indigenous peoples that we have to respect each other's well-being. It seems obvious that this is felt by all the Members of this House.

I wanted to speak about this issue because of what's happening in Ottawa, or actually in Gatineau, where many indigenous people have gathered. I thank each and every one of them, as they had to speak about difficult and emotional instances in front of the inquiry. As well, with regard to the counsellors who assist them, I ask my colleagues in this House to join me in thanking them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 373 – 5(2): Final
Report of the National Inquiry
into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. My grandchild is watching the proceedings. My dear grandchild, I hope you have a good day.

I rise today to speak to the same issue my colleague just brought up about the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

As you know, two of our colleagues, including the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, have travelled to the nation's capital to be present at the release of the report. I look forward to the minister making a statement in this House later this week about what actions our government may be taking to help implement the recommendations contained in the final report. The final report of the national inquiry is over 1,000 pages in length, and I look forward to reviewing it with care.

I am pleased to note that the report contains a number of references to my community of Pangnirtung. That part will be quite interesting to read to find out more, and that report, although lengthy, will also be very interesting to read for residents of Nunavut, as well as the actual details, as many witnesses submitted their stories during that process.

Further, those of us who have been impacted here in Nunavut, as some communities and residents have been personally affected with missing or murdered women, and in order to get answers, it will be interesting to read the details. This is a very serious matter and that had to be acknowledged first. I wanted to voice that and it is the reason for me standing.

I also ask that my colleagues share my commitment to put an end to physical or mental abuse of women and girls as that should not happen here in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

**Member's Statement 374 – 5(2): 2019
High School Graduates in Clyde
River**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my immense pleasure in congratulating students who have completed their schooling. We must always voice our congratulations and to express our pride in the parents. If the parents weren't dedicated in waking up their children, many more wouldn't graduate. It is due to the diligence of their parents that usually leads to their graduation from school.

These students are from my other constituency community of Clyde River who have passed their grade 12. Although there will be a graduation ceremony this coming Friday in Clyde River, there are 12 students who completed their high school grade 12. I will state their names, and I apologize beforehand if I inadvertently mispronounce your names, so with my apologies in case of mistaken pronunciation.

The graduates are, with the first being:

- Elizabeth Kautuk,

- Jocelyn Kautuk,
- Ulluriaq Natatine,
- Rosalynn Atsiqtaq,
- Megan Illauq,
- Norman Kooneeliusie,
- Dawn Palituq,
- Brenda Qillaq,
- Uluappak Enook,
- Joseph Apak,
- Gabriel Paniloo, and
- Norman Natanine.

I am very proud of those individuals and I congratulate them, and I congratulate the parents as well because they push their children to complete their school. Now that they have completed their grade 12, they can pursue further education in a field of their choice. I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating them, as well as the parents in my constituency community, as I am very proud of the graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 375 – 5(2):
Awareness of Missing and
Murdered Indigenous Women and
Girls**

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

I rise today to speak to the subject of indigenous women in Canada who have been murdered and who are on the list of the final report submitted to the Prime

Minister earlier today.

I also want to voice this fact that isn't a new issue as this has occurred in every part of Canada, from the highways of Montreal, Winnipeg, on the Trans-Canada Highway to British Columbia and reaching Vancouver where indigenous women should be very careful. This means your daughters, your wives, your maternal cousins, and your paternal cousins. Although the RCMP is supposed to protect us women, along with social workers, they are failing to protect the women who require protection.

I am very appreciative of this report being presented in Canada as we, the indigenous women and children, and young girls are a black mark on Canada when viewed globally, as there are thousands of murdered women and girls, and when no charges are laid against the perpetrators. I am grateful to the members of the inquiry.

I advise all my fellow females in Nunavut to exercise great care when travelling to Winnipeg, Montreal, Edmonton, or even down to Vancouver, as all of Canada has been impacted, so be very cautious because I don't want anything untoward to happen to you, your children, or your daughters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeegok.

**Member's Statement 376 – 5(2):
Commissioner's Recognition in
Arctic Bay**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just this April, Commissioner Kusugak travelled up to Arctic Bay to recognize many residents of the community and to voice her thanks for their services.

I want to further name the people who were recognized during the dog sledding race when the Commissioner went up to Arctic Bay, and I am very grateful to Commissioner Nellie Kusugak.

There was a community wellness group recognized, comprised of Tony Akumalik, Paul Ettuk Jr., and Raymond Shappa. There were also other residents recognized for their voluntary work in their community as they provide tremendous services to fellow residents, so it was very uplifting to observe them and they are Sheena Qaunaq, Audrey Qamanirq, and Moses Koonoo.

There were also organizations acknowledged during the presentations, as they were also in attendance and it included the local Junior Rangers of Arctic Bay, the local firefighters, the local search and rescue group, as well as the local cadets, and the originating committee members of Pangaggujjiniq who were also recognized.

Furthermore, the eldest woman in our constituency who lives in Arctic Bay, Qaapik Attagutsiak, was asked to light the Qulliq. The Commissioner recognized her and thanked her with an award. She wasn't expecting to be recognized and that was deeply moving to witness. She is always trying to assist

her fellow residents and she was recognized by our Commissioner.

Other people recognized included Mayor Frank May and Levi Barnabas with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, as we represented both the organization and our government. I send my gratitude to everyone who was recognized and I am very proud of their recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 377 – 5(2): Final
Report of the National Inquiry
into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. I say "good day" to the residents of Rankin Inlet.

While on this topic, I wanted to speak to this issue that has been the focal point of discussions today, centering on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in Canada. I am very grateful to the commissioners who worked on this inquiry, so I thank you profusely.

The inquiry held a hearing in Rankin Inlet, and I am appreciative that occurred. On behalf of my fellow residents, I thank them as well, as that hearing resulted in a lot of unresolved pain being lifted away, obviously. I know this personally, as I have lost a sister who was murdered. The work they undertook was near and dear to my heart, and I completely understand the

feelings of loss. I send my gratitude to the inquiry as this allowed many people to move on and will help in the future years.

For those of us who bear daughters, we don't bring them up to be physically abused or to be fearful for one's life, and we don't bring them up to be senselessly murdered. We bring our daughters up with love, with adoration, and expectations of watching them grow old, and that is why we bring up our daughters. Murdering, physical abuse, and belittlement of our women must stop, Mr. Speaker.

Further, to the members who submitted this final report, I thank you, as many hours, days, and years passed before the conclusion of the inquiry to hold hearings about this issue of missing and murdered women. This is obviously due to their compassion and commitment, so I thank you for undertaking this inquiry. I hope you get your well-deserved rest.

With that, I want to read out what was outlined in the report as well as the recommendations. There are many issues written in the report, and I certainly hope that when we peruse this document, the action items we can undertake here in this House, including future legislation and recommendations on this front, our Government of Nunavut brings forth relevant legislation following the recommendations to close out this chapter, as I don't want their hard work collecting dust. Thank you for allowing me to speak, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. I have no more names on my

list. Let's go back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to warmly welcome my constituent, Simon Nattaq, who is behind me. I thank him for attending our sessions. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Another individual is Moses Atagoyuk, who is also a long-time resident of Iqaluit. Please feel welcome. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Hon. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. I first went to school here back in 1972 where, as a 14-year old boy, I resided at the Ukiivik residence. We always had supervisors who were older Inuit. We thought they were our elders, but it turned out they were not that old either. When you are a child, you never forget people who treated you with kindness, and you can recall this over your entire life.

One of the past supervisors who worked at that time and who was my favourite supervisor used to welcome me warmly.

Although they have already passed on, I will never forget the late Goola Nakashuk and Joe Tikivik.

They were also working with this man who is now an elder but who is always welcoming whenever I arrive into Iqaluit. Moses Atagoyuk was a supervisor and took good care of me. Thank you and welcome.

Also, when we moved here to Iqaluit, I too was welcomed by this man who was already recognized. Simon Nattaq, welcome to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): I again welcome you as you're being recognized. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to recognize this person who was already acknowledged. However, I want to recognize Moses Atagoyuk, as I am his son-in-law, and I thank him for always assisting our family.

We also listen to the radio, and every Sunday he would call in to the local radio and it's always interesting to listen to him. I also know Moses Atagoyuk prefers to hear our language and if we are going to speak it, we must speak it fluently. I have learned that from him.

Another person is Simon Nattaq, who is now an elder here in Iqaluit, as these two men are our elders and I recognize them both. Mr. Simon Nattaq is originally

from Hall Beach.

I also want to mention one more thing. The seats that the elders are sitting in are specifically for our elders, and I further urge our elders to feel free to come and sit in the chairs reserved for them. I encourage elders to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the House. (interpretation ends)
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

I would like to welcome three visitors to the gallery. Under the federal government's Aboriginal Leadership Development Initiative, they represent promising federal indigenous employees from 11 federal departments across the federal public service who aspire to access senior leadership positions. A similar second group will be in the visitors' gallery tomorrow. Welcome to the House.

>> *Applause*

Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions.
Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 505 – 5(2): Plans for Kugaaruk Health Centre

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the residents of Taloyoak, as well as my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as we are well aware, for many government buildings, the accepted lifespan is 30 years. Mr. Speaker, the health centre facility in the community of Kugaaruk, in my constituency, has exceeded the accepted lifespan for a public building. I applaud the contractor who built the building because it has been standing for 40 years now and is still being used as our health centre.

Can the minister tell us what capital plans are in place regarding the Kugaaruk Community Health Centre? I'm asking when we can expect that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to acknowledge all the work that our health care professionals, working along with our colleagues at Community and Government Services, have done on maintaining these facilities across the territory past their expected lifespan.

It is a challenging endeavour when we talk about our capital planning process with all the competing needs from across the territory, but it can't be understated enough on how important it is to make sure that we have current technologies and appropriate workspace for our health care providers across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the health centre in Kugaaruk, as the member stated, is one of our oldest in the territory. It was built in 1984, so it has been serving us very well. I can say at this time that within the capital planning process that we have right now, we've got the Kugluktuk

Health Centre as our next in line for the planning to be done on. Immediately following that, the health centre in Kugaaruk is anticipated to be scheduled for preplanning and assessment. At this time I don't have a definitive date on when that will occur, but it is in our capital strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to firstly state what my thoughts were on the matter, and hopefully this will show clearly in my questions. My next question is this:

Mr. Speaker, health care is very important to all of us as Inuit. One of the most important aspects of staying healthy is living and working in a nice, clean and safe environment.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister elaborate clearly on that particular issue that he mentioned earlier? Although he wasn't sure of the timeline, I wonder if he can respond to this question. Do you have an approximate fiscal year that will determine the condition of the Kugaaruk Health Centre and to evaluate the working conditions for the staff and clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for allowing me to be able to elaborate on the process that goes around the care and assessment of our health care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, our health centre staff keep us up to date on any deficiencies or any challenges that they have within the facilities. We do work closely with our colleagues at Community and Government Services on facility assessments across the territory. Like other government-owned infrastructure, health centres do get assessed regularly. I don't know when the next assessment date is. I would have to check with my departmental officials and with Community and Government Services to see when the next scheduled assessment is. I can say it was last assessed in 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We all want to see people living well. Some of these people are the patients and the staff at our health centres. If the environment in the building is old and uncomfortable, people will not feel comfortable. There is a certain sickness in this kind of environment. Mr. Speaker, let us look towards seeing our constituents feeling comfortable and happy in our communities.

Will the minister commit to providing a written update on the status of the Kugaaruk Health Centre and explaining what capital plans are underway to address the needs in the community, and will he commit to doing so before the next meeting in this House?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can commit to that. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Question 506 – 5(2): Teaching Life Skills in Our Schools

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, the minister's statement that he read today is very fitting to the line of questioning that I have. It's about curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, there have been much talk over the years, especially now with the upcoming renewal of our *Education Act*, of what kinds of things Nunavummiut feel should be taught in our schools. One suggestion has been to incorporate more life skills learning into our curriculum.

Can the minister provide an update on what steps are being taken to incorporate real-life skills that are relevant, I would just like to point that out, that are relevant to living in Nunavut that can be incorporated into the academic subject areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. We have a number of our curricula on review, and of course we do have multiple resources and curricula that we have either adopted or adapted

from other jurisdictions.

We do have Nunavut-made curriculum in addition to that. There are four curriculum; namely, Aulajaaqtut, which is on health and wellness, and citizenship. That is geared towards grade 10 and above. These curriculums, we take into account competencies, whether they are for Nunavut students or across the nation. We do, as much as we can, include IQ principals into resources that are being developed. It is an ongoing process and this is an arduous task that our department has taken on since division, is making our core curriculum Nunavut-made and Nunavut-relevant and specific. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his answer. It is a little general, but maybe he can give me a little bit more specific aspects of my next question.

Mr. Speaker, it has been suggested that teaching basic concepts like geometry could be more relevant if students could learn to build small structures or to understand the basic arithmetic by learning to balance their personal budgets or even to understand society by learning to deal with emotions like depression or suicidal thoughts.

Can the minister indicate what specific aspects of the Nunavut school curriculum are being revised to take into account the real-life challenges that Nunavut students will face as they become adults? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The curriculum that I had in my ministerial statement on Inuktitut language is a specific one because we're taking into account the different levels that our students are currently at. Some communities have very strong Inuktitut skills and we have to recognize the different levels that some of them are at.

The other piece, social-emotional learning curriculum, is an area that we want to look at very closely to take into account such things as the inquest to the suicide and taking into account the recommendations that came following that, and how mental health is such a prevalent issue across the territory. We're looking at those types of curricula to adjust some of the needs that are ongoing today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In years gone by, Iqaluit's Inuksuk High School ran a program for students that focused holistically on such areas as personal growth, life skills, land skills, and upgrading. The Terry Fox Program was run by Nick Newbery from 1986 to 2003 and helped many students gain important skills for their lives ahead.

Will the minister commit to developing a component of Nunavut school curriculum that focuses primarily on life skills to ensure that our students are better equipped emotionally and realistically for life after high school?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. I understand where the member is coming from and trying to get our students as best prepared for their adult life.

I, too, remember in my high school days there was a course called Career and Life Management, CALM class, but I think it's something else today. Today we have what's called career and program planning, and this helps students to plan ahead and think about what they might want to do after high school and beyond.

We will look at some of the suggestions that the member has suggested. In line with our curriculum renewal, Alberta had initiated a big renewal of their own curriculum and we watch what they're doing closely, but right now it's on hold.

However, we do have other initiatives in our Curriculum Development Division in addition to the resources that accompany those curricula that we're working on to make the best for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 507 – 5(2): Driver's Licences and General Identification Cards

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in Sanikiluaq continue to bring concerns to me about problems with the process of issuing driver's licences and general identification cards.

Mr. Speaker, given the number of years that I have been raising this issue, I must sound like a broken record, and nobody likes the sound of a broken record. That being said, I will continue playing the tune until a solution is found.

When I last raised this issue during our winter sitting, the minister informed the House that his department was working to address issues related to the department's ability to send information electronically rather than having to mail USB drives to Iqaluit. Can the minister update us today on what progress is being made in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of trying to see how we can send applications electronically, we're still going through that and trying to determine in terms of the bandwidth side, to see how we can send it to the regional and to our headquarters offices that do send it down to Ottawa for their driver's licence and the government ID cards. That work is still in progress. It is slow and it is tedious, and I do ask that members be patient on this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members have been patient. It has been nearly ten years that I have been bringing this up and we still have the same issue.

As I noted in the preamble to my question, a number of my constituents are continuing to face problems in getting their driver's licences and general identification cards in a timely manner. When I last raised this issue during our winter sitting, the minister also informed us that his department would be setting up a 1-800 number specifically for residents to call if they are encountering issues with their applications. For the record, can the minister confirm whether or not the 1-800 number is now operational? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That 1-800 number is not operational yet, but it's something that we're working really hard to try to get as soon as we can. I don't have a definitive date, but I am pushing my staff in terms of getting... That's one of the easier ones, I would think, with this process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought fixing the driver's licence issue was fairly simple too, but it has taken ten years. I hope it doesn't take ten years to create a phone number that people can call in.

>>Laughter

During last Thursday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I raised the issue of the government's proposed undersea fibre optic cable project. As I noted during my questioning, the Nunavut Impact Review Board's report on the project indicated that the project "...would enhance communication linkages for Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Cape Dorset and Sanikiluaq..." Can the minister confirm that his department is working with the Department of Community and Government Services to ensure that those improvements also extend to the government's systems for issuing driver's licences and general identification cards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when it comes to software and for any of the government processes, such as the Motor Vehicle Information System and our application process, we work very closely with Community and Government Services' IT section and identify what the needs are. Each of them is held within their project management in terms of what types of bandwidth are needed and how it can be delivered.

When they're making a case for fibre, those are the very things that gets used because each of the departments know how much bandwidth we need in order to be worked properly. They make those calculations and bring it on behalf of the government. As our department, we work very closely on that front. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet

North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member
Towtongie.

Question 508 – 5(2): Homeownership Programs

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rarely mention my dear husband, so to my husband, I am missing you immensely. Have a good day, Harry Towtongie.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister will recall, I have spoken about the importance of support for homeowners on a number of occasions in this House.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the current 2019-2020 fiscal year is to "...develop and begin implementation of a work plan to update, discontinue or develop new homeownership programming in support of the provision of affordable and accessible housing options and in support of homeownership readiness."

Can the minister provide some specific details of what new homeownership programs are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking about that. Now, the housing corporation fully supports homeownership, as homeowners face

challenges in supplying fuel and maintenance costs for their homes, and we try to assist them in those areas. Homeowners are essential role models, as our territory faces a severe housing crisis everywhere, and we try to support homeowners, as homeownership is important.

We anticipate at our fall sitting as this is currently being reviewed regarding homeownership programs, and which communities are capable of having more homeowners and which communities are too challenging to push for that. All of these issues are currently being reviewed. However, we anticipate having the report completed by the fall sitting, which we will then table in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the current 2019-2020 fiscal year is to "Continue to work with mining companies to encourage development of homeownership support programs for employees."

Mr. Speaker, the development of new mines in the Kivalliq region is very exciting, including beautiful Baker Lake. Can the minister provide some specific details of what work has been accomplished in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We really want to work with all industry in terms of providing the homeownership program. I can tell the member that next month, when they do the official opening of the Agnico Eagle Mines, I will be meeting with the Agnico Eagle Mines representatives on this very issue that the member raises. Obviously we would like to see a robust homeownership program and work with industry in terms of how we're going to address this issue. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary, Member Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently hosted a phone-in show for my constituents in my community of Rankin Inlet. One constituent described a situation to me where they had received support under one of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs to undertake renovations to their home. However, the private contractor didn't complete the work. Can the minister indicate if homeowners in such circumstances can approach the Nunavut Housing Corporation for assistance to resolve the situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the matter the member is bringing forward as a result of her radio phone-in show, she had provided that information to me and I am having my officials looking into that as of now.

If it's an urgent matter, if the homeowner can do the work themselves, as in they buy the materials, do the work, then we as the housing corporation can reimburse the money that is spent by the homeowner on this house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 509 – 5(2): Status of New Contract for Medical and Duty Travel

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

In January of this year the government issued a request for proposals for a new standing offer agreement for medical travel, duty travel, and air freight on scheduled airlines. Mr. Speaker, the request for proposals closed on March 15, almost three months ago.

Information contained in the request for proposals indicates that the government plans to execute its new agreement on June 30, just a few weeks from today.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister update the Legislative Assembly on the status of the government's new contracts for medical and duty travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For the purpose of the request for

proposals, that is still ongoing. It's difficult for us as ministers in terms of discussing the very finite details on it. I want to assure the members that it is still continuing and it is at the review stage right now. For some of the recommendations that were in that procurement is using is what is called "the best and final offer" process. That one is out now and is was just recently closed as of May 31. More reviews will need to be done before we issue the contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Information contained in the request for proposals indicates that the government spent over \$165 million on scheduled medical travel alone between the 2015-16 and 2017-18 fiscal years. Mr. Speaker, this works out to an average of over \$150,000 per day, for 365 days a year, every day.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what types of air service enhancements to the communities have been achieved through its new contracts? For the smaller communities, I can give you an example. All we get are chips and cookies when we're flying, so I'm asking you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just got reminded that we are anticipating and hoping that this will be awarded in July of this year, with a start date of January 1, 2020.

Those proposals are being reviewed

right now. There are no new enhancements. We are still within our existing contracts that we have with the airlines. This hasn't been awarded yet. We are reviewing it very closely. I applaud each of our teams within the government in terms closely scrutinizing each of the proposals that have been received as a part of this request for proposals. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our recent winter sitting, I asked the minister a number of questions concerning the related issue of the proposed airline merger between First Air and Canadian North. Mr. Speaker, a merger between the airlines would obviously have an impact on the government's medical and duty travel contracts.

Mr. Speaker, in response to my questions, the minister committed to tabling copies of the Government of Nunavut's submissions to the federal government on this issue, but he has not yet done so. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm that these submissions will be tabled before the end of our current spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to be clear that the merger that is being planned and this RFP are not related. They are related in a way that the airlines are considering merging,

but I view them as two complete incidents that are happening right now. One is our duty travel and medical travel contracts and the planned merger by two airlines. The merger is still being reviewed at the federal level in terms of their requirements to whether they're going to accept or not.

I did make the commitment in last session that I would table what we submitted and I still plan on doing that. We are still sitting 'til Thursday. I am planning on tabling, but as the member alluded, I have not done it yet. I just wanted to make that distinction. Yes, we are still sitting in this spring session and still have an opportunity to table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

Question 510 – 5(2): Implementation of Action Plan to Reduce Alcohol-related Harm

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I will be directing my question to the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

(interpretation) On November 8, 2016 the government's action plan titled (interpretation ends) *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* (interpretation) was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

One of the specific goals in the government's action plan is to "Improving information sharing and communication between government

and the RCMP" in order to fight the illegal sale of alcohol in communities such as Pangnirtung.

I strongly believe that the local RCMP in Pangnirtung need more resources in which to address such problems. Can the minister indicate what additional resources are being provided in this area through the government's action plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this issue again. I have stated before and I will continue to state that in the communities that are restricted or prohibited, people have to take very serious action on the illegal bringing-in of alcohol into the communities.

I do want to state that we have worked with a number of our partners on continuing to promote community health and wellness committees. We have worked very ardently within this program on taking steps to reduce alcohol-related harm. We have people coming from our Liquor and Cannabis Division that go out to the communities to work with alcohol education committees where they exist, to work with community members, such as the RCMP, such as the hamlet. We work very closely with NTI.

We want to make sure that as we're promoting these campaigns for responsible choices to alcohol, we're working not just in the communities that are non-restricted or have allowances for bringing in alcohol, but I think it's a very important aspect to work with

communities that are restricted, where you are not allowed to have alcohol in, but there is still alcohol coming into the community and doing harm.

We want to make sure that as communities fulfill their desires on what types of prohibitions or restrictions that they have, we work with the communities along with any type of communications strategy to coordinate these efforts. These are funded out of our Liquor Revolving Fund, of which we can remove up to \$750,000 a year for alcohol-related education and cannabis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Another one of the specific goals in the government's action plan is "Engaging municipal authorities to solicit their active participation in alcohol harm reduction." As the minister is aware, I have spoken many times in this House about the efforts being made in my community. Also, to be clear, Pangnirtung is the only community that has developed a coalition.

Can the minister indicate what additional resources are being provided to municipalities through the government's action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can stand here and say that I applaud the efforts of the members of

the community of Pangnirtung on how such a serious nature that they have taken this concern and the work that community members are doing on a volunteer basis for the majority of it to work with community members.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of different initiatives not just within Finance. We do provide services along with the RCMP. Like I mentioned before, we do bring in people from our Liquor and Cannabis Division into communities to help raise the profile and awareness of our "Let's Be Aware" campaign, but there are also other pots of money that are available to communities through the Department of Health, as an example, through our Embrace Life, and through our Quality of Life Division. Anything to do with community wellness, we want to make sure that our communities are successful and the well-being of our residents are taken seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have a list of every program dollar that was invested in Pangnirtung, but I can commit to the member that I will ask my officials for a detailed list of what type of program supports have been implemented in Pangnirtung, and I will share that information with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm certainly looking forward to the response to that because we are eager to know what more support the community can get.

The government's action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut indicates that the beer and wine store in the capital city is a pilot project. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the government that although residents of the capital city had the opportunity to vote on this issue, residents of other impacted communities, including Pangnirtung, had no say in the matter before the store was opened.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the government's evaluation of the pilot project takes into account the impact that the increased access to alcohol is having on neighbouring communities, including Pangnirtung? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that suggestion. Mr. Speaker, I will speak to my officials to see exactly how that engagement can occur.

I will throw an asterisk or a caveat. One of the difficult challenges that, in my discussions with my officials, when we look at alcohol impact in the outlying communities, there's little information on what types of alcohol are coming in. Typically when we look at binge drinking in communities, it is with spirits or high alcohol content beverages, which, out of the beer and wine store project that we have here in Iqaluit, that was to help defray some of those high-alcohol spirits being consumed.

I can say, from an importing permit measurement, there has been a dramatic decrease in spirits being requested to be brought into the city here in Iqaluit, but I

do acknowledge that there is an offsetting impact in other communities. I will commit to speaking to my officials on how we can engage outlying communities on some type of measurement on the impact of the beer and wine store.

Like I say, just in my first thought, it does promote some challenges on are those spirits or is that beer and wine coming in, but I will obviously also talk to my colleague to see where and how we can engage community members in this review. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

Question 511 – 5(2): Number of Conservation Officers in Department

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, during our winter sitting, I queried the minister on this issue previously as some communities don't have a conservation officer in their community. At that time there were quite a few vacancies and this included our community of Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder what the status of the vacancies are now. How many communities still have no conservation officer as of today? Can the minister outline the status of these vacancies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can provide a response to the member's question. I will start with the Kivalliq region, if he wants to hear about Nunavut as a whole.

In the Kivalliq, Whale Cove has no conservation officer as the officer who worked there left recently.

In the Kitikmeot one community has no conservation officer and that is Taloyoak, but there is the HTO locally.

In the Baffin region, Pangnirtung has no conservation officer currently as they are waiting for a building and with the completion of that acquisition this coming Friday, the position will be advertised. Is (interpretation ends) Grise Fiord Qausuittuq or Ausuittuq? Ausuittuq. (interpretation) I always confuse them, but Grise Fiord has no conservation officer as they are waiting for housing. Hall Beach also has no conservation officer and the position hasn't been advertised yet. In Kimmirut, although the position is vacant, there are applicants who are being interviewed. They have just finished. In Qikiqtarjuaq the position is vacant as they are also waiting for housing within the community. The conservation officer in Pond Inlet is on limited capacity due to health and works when he is able to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that clarification. In our community we call them wildlife

officers while other communities call them conservation officers, but they are indispensable, especially in the summer season. This summer, since our community gets numerous polar bear visitations, residents are continually getting equipment and materials damaged. It is impossible to leave anything behind on the land.

Just recently in April my son and I went on an overnight trip and we stayed at a cabin. When I woke up in the night, there was a polar bear already outside, and our snowmobiles were parked outside, as we don't put our machines inside the cabins. What we didn't know was that my son's skidoo seat was already destroyed when the bear came into the land. That is how destructive polar bears are, and they like to destroy the skidoo seats if it has been left outside. I think we all know that about bears as hunters, and even women are aware of their destructiveness.

There is sometimes a lot of work required in the community, as we experience the most numbers of bears in the summer and we endure more damages to our personal belongings. They will even destroy some cabins if they can get in, and this occurs all over Nunavut as some cabins are completely trashed, along with the belongings in the cabin. Many of the items are expensive to replace, but we have to replace them out of our own pockets when the damage is done by a polar bear. Many hunters don't receive any compensation for these damages.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps for the communities with vacant conservation officer positions, they can have shorter time periods between a conservation

officer visiting them. Sometimes it is months before a conservation officer will arrive to handle the backlog. A lot of harvesters have no employment and they have to wait for conservation officers to sell their furs. Maybe to have conservation officers visit in a short period of time, it would be nice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be able to approve the shorter time frame between visits from other conservation officers where communities have a vacancy. Sometimes it is hard to schedule visitations because the conservation officer may not be finished their community's tasks or schedules, and if they aren't completed, then they can't travel. However, I can tell my colleague that I do agree with his assessment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. Mr. Speaker, my community has had a vacancy for quite a long time with no local conservation officer. I would like to know if staff housing is what is holding it back and, if staff housing was available, we could expect a conservation officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are government staff housing units in

Qikiqtarjuaq. At this time we have submitted the request for staff housing for the conservation officer and once the request is approved, we can begin to advertise the position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerk.

Question 512 – 5(2): Report on Graduating Students

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. As I stated earlier, my question is for the Minister of Education regarding graduates.

When exams are scheduled for the final marks for graduation, they take the Alberta exams. Within the document, it hasn't changed at all and it neither seems to be advancing or dropping. I wonder if the minister can provide an annual report related to the numbers of students who graduate, maybe by community. Is it possible to produce this level of detail by showing trends such as no change, growth, or not? I hope I was understandable with my request, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for the question. With respect to that request, we are looking at reviewing that within our yearly reports as we report on educational issues as well as the graduates. The figures are used to determine if the number of graduates is increasing.

With respect to the actual trends or if changes are occurring, we want to know more about these trends, so we want to review our options as to what to include in the yearly report if we start doing that in the future. We are reviewing that to see what happens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for saying that he will look into it. Yes, this is something I would like to see added in the yearly reports.

As well, in looking at the annual reports from 1999 up to 2017, they report on the graduates. I wonder if the minister can include that by breaking down each community so that numbers are clearer to see as to which communities are increasing or not changing much. Can they establish all those numbers in their annual report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This may require more intensive research on the kind of information we can report on. However, we must try to imagine even though the territory of Nunavut is quite expansive and we know that there are approximately 10,000 students from kindergarten to grade 12, if we were to break it down by community and based on the grade levels, we would really be breaking it down. However, we also must respect issues such as confidentiality or privacy, as some students in certain communities can be

possibly identified as to whether they are improving or not. These are the types of issues we must take into consideration, although it is under review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as I stated earlier, we can certainly do more brainstorming on this matter of the number of graduates. Yes, I am also proud of our teachers as they provide essential education to Nunavummiut.

Now I want to ask this question again to the minister. You already answered the question I was going to ask. Now I want to ask about us as parents. Most parents want their children to graduate. Now, as a parent who has school-aged children and I wanted my children to pass, let's use Iqaluit as an example. Let's say I am at home. Can I get a test as a parent with school children as I want them to successfully take the right courses and to get higher grades as they move up?

Hopefully I am clear. Is it possible for a parent to go to the school and watch to see how well my child is learning their grades? We do know that their report cards outline the progress, but if I want my child to attend school in another community, can I also do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Member for Amittuq for the question. I think in his question the

member imagines, like if I say it in English, “hypothetical,” but to respond to him, if the member wants to do that and he has a student in the school or has moved to another community, the member can request to see the differences between the curriculum in the new community and the old community and look at the assessments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 513 – 5(2): Housing Strategy

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. I rise to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

There is a document that was released, which I referred to, called (interpretation ends) *Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy*. (interpretation) In reading it, there are some questions that arise. This document just seems to raise more questions. I wonder how the questions could even be answered. Although I have many questions, I will try to keep them concise.

Firstly, I would like to ask: was the Nunavut Housing Corporation included in the work done by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami? Was the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation (interpretation) involved in the work or did they get interviewed or were they consulted beforehand? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *The Blueprint for Action on Housing* promotes interdepartmental cooperation as well as collaboration with (interpretation) Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on housing issues.

We need assistance in order to work on the overcrowding aspect in Nunavut, but the funding we receive from the federal government is fairly insignificant, as you can barely notice the figures. We are trying to work together with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on how we can possibly get more funding.

However, the (interpretation ends) strategy (interpretation) our colleague referenced and whether we were involved is something I have no information about. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Within the report that was produced, I was having a hard time understanding as I was reading it.

It states in here somewhere that Inuit organizations in Nunavut would like to run their own finances, receive money from the federal government, and manage it themselves to work on homeownership; (interpretation ends) affordable housing program. (interpretation) They would like to run this on their own and they would work with (interpretation ends) regional Inuit associations (interpretation) and the (interpretation ends) development corporations (interpretation) that are attached to the regional Inuit

organizations.

I know that the housing corporation is currently looking at the (interpretation ends) homeownership program review. (interpretation) If the new group is created, how would the Nunavut Housing Corporation work with that new group? I don't understand how they would work together.

The (interpretation ends) homeownership program review (interpretation) is going on, which is good. I apologize for switching between languages. You are working on that right now. The decision still has not been announced. With the homeownership review that the department is doing, was this new thing considered at all or is it completely new? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I voted for Nunavut too, and those of us who are (interpretation ends) beneficiaries (interpretation) of Nunavut are a part of the people who are experiencing a housing shortage. It would look very good if Nunavut Tunngavik could allocate funding to build houses for the beneficiaries in Nunavut. The housing corporation would completely welcome Nunavut Tunngavik if they could give us funding for housing. I want to see that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the minister

that we never have enough money. I am not a beneficiary, but my constituents are experiencing an extreme housing shortage in Whale Cove and Arviat now.

I would like to know if there is a way to move forward, if we look into the future, to work together with the government. It's also in the document. Is there currently a system where the housing corporation can work with the other organizations? I would like to know that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to Nunavut Tunngavik and the strategy that the member is referring to, it was presented to the associations. If they received funding, I would be ecstatic to work with them as I would want to collaborate with them on housing issues.

I receive daily correspondence via computer, emails, or by telephone that the housing unit they are occupying is mouldy and requires repairs. There are many units facing that challenge that the housing corporation faces and we need tangible assistance from the federal government and Nunavut Tunngavik to mitigate overcrowding and the housing shortage we face. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members will note that the time for question period has expired. (interpretation) Member Quassa.

Motion 038 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Netsilik, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended by 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Question 514 – 5(2): Nunavummiut at Embassy West

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

Now, we have many elders in Ottawa at the Embassy West facility. A number of them have been there for many years and some people have even passed away while living there. The first question I have for the information of the people of Nunavut is: how many of our elders are now housed at Embassy West? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are currently 32 Nunavummiut residing at Embassy West. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is a lot of people, as many as 32 people. Our actual elders

in Nunavut are not that many in number now.

For my next question, we hear that they're not considered residents of Nunavut once they are living in Ottawa, in the eyes of the government. Before I get to my question, I am a resident of Nunavut and if I am a beneficiary of Nunavut Tunngavik, it doesn't matter where I live in the world. Even if it is across the Atlantic Ocean, I can still be considered a Nunavut beneficiary and that's the situation. With respect to the 32 people you mentioned, are they all recognized as residents of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anyone whose care that we provide, the payment on their behalf from the Department of Health are considered Nunavut residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for helping us understand that. We hear sometimes that even though they are Inuit, they are no longer recognized as Nunavut Inuit by our own government. That is painful. It's hurtful. People from Nunavut are always from Nunavut no matter where they live. When that recognition stops, it hurts.

The final question I would like to ask is: because there are 32 residents, what kinds of benefits do they receive? When we are saying that they are Inuit, they

should eat Inuit food, and their families really want to see them and they need to be seen by family. They expect to see their family members. Some of them even die because they haven't seen their family for too long. The elders really feel this. They really want to see their families.

The question I have is: what are the actual benefits available to residents from Nunavut that are staying at Embassy West? (interpretation ends) What are the benefits that are given? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, until we can provide such care as needed by these elders... . It's difficult whenever we have to send elders outside the territory. Until we can provide that level of care in the territory, we're going to have to rely upon outside services. With that there are some differences, whether they're independent, what type of income that they have, on what type of medical benefits, for example.

We do recommend that after a portion of time they transfer to Ontario Health for medications, prescriptions, and that type of thing to ease the transfer over. The majority of the clients still fall under Non-Insured Health Benefits, so they would be getting their prescriptions and everything paid for through NIHB. Any residents down there that are not under the NIHB program, it makes it a lot easier to provide reimbursement of any expenses through Ontario Health where they wouldn't have to pay upfront. If they were still residing in Nunavut, they would have to pay for their prescriptions

up front and seek reimbursement. We have an agreement with Ontario Health that that is covered.

With regard to any other benefits they receive, they receive any benefit that they would be eligible for while living in Nunavut. We have people who are down there on income support that we provide assistance to for periods of time. To me I think the main benefit that people get is that they don't have to provide any cost sharing. Any other facility in the country, there are charges associated with and individuals are responsible for a portion of that, except in Nunavut. We do provide 100 percent coverage for our residents because it's no fault of their own that we have to send people outside the territory. As of right now, we still provide 100 percent of those costs shared.

I would like to make a comment again with regard to country food. Mr. Speaker, Embassy West works very hard to make sure country food is available every day, from arctic char to tuktuk, to walrus, to seal. They work very hard to make sure country food is available every day. I just want to take this moment to acknowledge the efforts of the staff at Embassy West on how well that they work with us to provide the level of care that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. For the second time around, I would like to recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

**Question 515 – 5(2): Status of
Aqsarniit Middle School Siding
Project**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware from my questions to the Minister of Finance during our review of the supplementary appropriation bill (capital) No. 2, it is not clear what is happening to the project to replace the siding on the Aqsarniit Middle School in Iqaluit. Can the minister provide an update on the status of the Aqsarniit Middle School Siding project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank her for the question. (interpretation ends) My understanding is that project is one of the ongoing lifecycle projects from our capital plans. We have multiple projects in that ongoing lifecycle under that budget. There are a number of pressing schools that either need major, either like generation backup replacement and/or more of emergency as opposed to the Aqsarniit Middle School, which is updating the siding. It's still within our capital planning process, but it has been deferred to a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Funds for this project were

originally approved for the 2016-17 fiscal year and it appears that some of those funds were spent, yet the project was never completed. Funds were then carried over for the project to proceed during the 2018-19 fiscal year and still no siding has been replaced. Can the minister clearly explain how much money has been spent on this project to date and what was the money spent on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have those details in front of me, but I can check back to what has been spent on that specific project and report back to the member and this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I live beside the Aqsarniit Middle School and I can tell you that the siding is getting worse and worse each year.

It is my understanding that the longer the government waits to complete projects, the more expensive those projects become as the costs of labour and material increase over time.

Will the minister commit to completing the Aqsarniit Middle School Siding project before the end of the current fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the project for the

middle school here in Iqaluit, and I have to verify this, I think the project was estimated as a \$3 million project. With the number of our schools across the territory needing emergency either repairs and/or replacing generators, we had to defer this project until such a time that we have the ongoing lifecycle budget is able to sustain that project. If there are any also health or safety issues that some other schools are experiencing, we have to pay attention to those on a more immediate basis. The middle school, the Aqsarniit school hasn't been deemed as an emergency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. I'm recognizing for the second time, Member Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

Question 516 – 5(2): Space at Alookie Elementary School

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

I have previously asked questions about classroom space in our schools and the answer has always been that the number of students attending school determines allocation of teacher positions and decisions regarding new infrastructure.

I would first like to ask the minister when the student numbers for the new school year will be finalized. That is my first question for Pangnirtung. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Just one moment, please.

In our survey for 2018-19... . Where is that? Mr. Speaker, is she asking about what we expect for next year? Yes, in our survey for Pangnirtung, in 2018-19 there were approximately 388 estimated when we counted the number of students. During some years the numbers increase and in some years they decrease. It never stays the same. It would probably be approximately 380 next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I understand that there are about 30 new students being registered for kindergarten in Pangnirtung. This will be a big increase in the number of students attending school. Already the foyer of the Alookie Elementary School is being used as a classroom at times.

Can the minister explain what steps are being taken to ensure that there will be enough classroom space for all of Pangnirtung's elementary school students? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the member's question, perhaps we gave a preplan for five years for the 2020-21 budget. The Alookie School in Pangnirtung was included for renovations. Right now we are in the

planning stages, but we don't have the details yet on what work will be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for clarifying that. We will look forward to that. Communities don't want to be skipped when there are programs available.

I would like to ask this supplementary question. I will just say this in English. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the Department of Education needs to see how many students are actually attending school to determine how much classroom space is required and how many teachers will need to be employed. However, if there are suddenly more students than the school can handle, something can be done to make sure that all children receive the educational opportunities that they deserve.

Will the minister commit to providing additional classroom space and new teachers if, at the beginning of the new school year, there will overcrowding at the Alookie Elementary School in Pangnirtung? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank her for the question. Mr. Speaker, it is the usage rate of the school that we use, or (interpretation ends) utilization (interpretation) which we use, to see if we need to have additions or if a new

school is required. There are two schools in Pangnirtung, Alookie and Attagoyuk. In looking at the 2018-19 statistics, Attagoyuk stood at 58 percent utilization and (interpretation ends) Alookie School (interpretation) stood at 77 percent utilization.

Last year when we held a meeting with the local DEA, they brought up that rate as well, and I informed the members that if one of the schools isn't facing overcrowding, perhaps one grade level can be temporarily placed in the other school. We would like to do that whenever possible, as there are quite a few schools. We face overcrowding, the need for additions, or antiquated schools that require renovation or even to receive a brand-new school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 517 – 5(2): Family Abuse Intervention Act Annual Report

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do realize that the minister is acting, but this is an important issue that probably shouldn't wait. My question is regarding the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and specifically it's about the recent annual report that was tabled in the House.

Mr. Speaker, my first question is regarding the use of emergency protection orders and community intervention orders, and I'll quote from page 6 of the report. It says, "EPOs are

the most utilized tool under FAIA. However; the original intention for the Act, was that CIOs would be the most utilized tool.” I’ll further quote from farther down on the page. “Often CJOWs do not receive referrals for families experiencing family abuse until it has become a crisis situation and emergency intervention is required.”

My first question for the acting minister is: what is the department doing to encourage more use of community intervention orders across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. As I stated earlier in my minister’s statement on one of our pilot projects, we are looking at different ways of trying to enhance some of the gaps that are here. I think this report just highlighted some of the gaps that are taking place. I can assure you that the department is taking steps to try to reduce some of this and including in terms of figuring out how to implement or utilize this current legislation on the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As shown on page 8 on the statistics for 2017-18, it shows that across Nunavut in 2017-18 there was not a single community intervention order either applied for or granted in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as the department’s own report indicates, the intention when this legislation was put in place is that, and this is my understanding, these would be the first step put in when there is people in an abusive relationship, when there is some intervention required, these community intervention orders would be used, and then the next step, if the abuse continues or if it’s more severe, the emergency protection order would be used. Based on my rudimentary understanding, and I may be incorrect here, but it appears that we in this territory are not intervening early enough when it comes to cases of abuse.

The report also indicates that the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* working group is dormant, but it mentions that “Community Justice aims to reestablish the working group to continue tackling areas of concern with the delivery” of the program. My next question for the minister is: when will this working group be re-established? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for this question. I am usually looking for an answer as the member asks his question, so I try to quickly read the answer. It states that the working group has been reinstated. (interpretation ends) The working group has been re-established by the acting FAIA manager and this makeup is two Justices of the Peace, the RCMP, the family abuse intervention abuse manager, and the director of community justice and family services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second

and final supplementary question,
Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to hear this from the minister, so thank you.

(interpretation ends) The very last sentence in the report, I think, is interesting, Mr. Speaker. I'll quote it here. "Moving forward, the Community Justice Division will strive to increase training, education/public awareness, crime prevention and victim services for all of Nunavummiut as part of its mandate and efforts under FAIA."

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the way I understand it is that the working group, and here I will use Arviat as an example, or perhaps the employee or CJOW... . Should they expect more funding towards these targeted goals, or am I misunderstanding that they will not expend more funds in our future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The documents I have and which I am reading don't mention any increases in their funding levels, but it does state that the working group has been reinstated and they have started their work. Further, at this time we have four (interpretation ends) Justices of the Peace (interpretation) supervisors who are trained on the requirements under the legislation.

I don't know how much funding this exercise will cost and whether it will lead to more funding. I can't respond to that right now, but I do want to state that due to its reinstatement, the funds and the operational needs will be identified. I

am expecting that to be submitted soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 518 – 5(2): Midwives in Nunavut

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. My question is for the Minister of Health.

In your minister's statement you mentioned that there are quite a number of midwives, if I heard you correctly. To date, how many midwives are there since the testing was done? Can he provide that information about the number of midwives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking about midwives in the territory, it has been an ongoing issue that I was bringing up even when I was on the other side of the House. I think it's very important to recognize the work of midwives on the prenatal and postnatal care that they provide to mothers and children.

Mr. Speaker, right now there is a total of 10 indeterminate registered midwife positions in Nunavut. Five of these are currently filled, and there is one manager and other positions are currently vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member

Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. I have brought up this issue in the past. With respect to these five vacancies, what is the status of the testing you completed in the Kitikmeot? Is this still in the Kitikmeot or has it moved to the Kivalliq region or is it in the Baffin region now? Where are these positions located? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Out of those positions here in Qikiqtaaluk, currently all of them are vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. Yes, as I have stated in the past, as long as you create employment that allows parents to worry less about their children, and if this was set up in the communities.

Does the Department of Health consult with the local hamlet offices and local health committees about midwifery? Would you be able to get that initiative to the Amittuq riding? Who do you consult when you are contemplating that? Is it the health committee or the hamlet council you consult when you want to introduce this midwifery program? Who do you consult? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the Midwifery Program, we have implemented a pilot project in the Kitikmeot out of the Cambridge Bay office where the leadership of the Midwifery Program is currently there. We have been providing midwives to outlying communities, which has brought already some immediate, very positive results on birth weights and decreased issues of post-partum, and they work very closely with new mothers and expectant mothers outside of Cambridge Bay and to outlying communities. This is a pilot project that I'm very interested in continuing to find more substantiation to.

I totally agree with the member. I think, for very low-risk births, we don't necessarily need to continually be sending people out, and I applaud the member for continuing his efforts to bring midwifery to his constituency. I would welcome any proposals that... We would look at all proposals that come to the Department of Health and where there is substantiation and resources available to move projects forward, I would welcome the opportunity to look at any proposal from any aspect of health care.

Midwifery is a very important one and I think, as we move forward, we can utilize those services more in community, whether it be through midwives or doulas or other maternal health professionals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Returning to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-

Niaqunnguu. No? Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. (interpretation) Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. (interpretation ends) Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Member Main.

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

Committee Report 011 – 5(2): Report on the Review of the 2016-2017 Annual Report and 2017-2021 Corporate Plan of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to present the *Report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the Review of the 2016-2017 Annual Report and 2017-2021 Corporate Plan of the Qulliq Energy Corporation*.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a hearing on these items from September 27 to 28, 2018.

The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the visitors' gallery. The transcript from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

The standing committee notes its appreciation to the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation for appearing before the committee.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains five sets of formal recommendations, which cover half a dozen thematic areas, including:

- Board governance;
- The establishment of a Qulliq Fuel Corporation;
- Human resources management;
- Reviews of the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program, the Public Housing Support Program, and the Affordable Energy Fund;
- Environmental remediation of contaminated sites; and
- Alternative energy and the Arctic Energy Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents.
(interpretation) Member for Amittuq,
Member Kaerner.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 171 – 5(2):
Exchange of Correspondence with
the Minister of Crown-Indigenous
Relations Concerning Relocation
of Graves in Hall Beach**

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document in the House. A longstanding and unresolved issue in the community of Hall Beach concerns the relocation of graves that took place during the 1960s. This issue was documented by the Qikiqtani Truth Commission as part of its work to move towards reconciliation. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table my recent exchange of correspondence with the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations on this subject, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Member Kusugak.

**Tabled Document 172 – 5(2): 2017-
2018 Contract Activity Report**

**Tabled Document 173 – 5(2): 2017-
2018 Procurement Activity Report**

**Tabled Document 174 – 5(2): 2017-
2018 Lease Activity Report**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government minister, I wish to table the following documents: (interpretation ends) the 2017-18 *Contract Activity Report*; 2017-18 *Procurement Activity Report*; (interpretation) and the final document, (interpretation ends) 2017-18 *Lease Activity Report*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry, Minister Kusugak. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Hickey.

**Tabled Document 175 – 5(2): 2016
Annual Report of the Workers'
Compensation Appeals Tribunal**

**Tabled Document 176 – 5(2): 2017
Annual Report of the Workers'
Compensation Appeals Tribunal**

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling today the following documents: the 2016 *Annual Report for the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal*, as well as the 2017 *Annual Report for the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Community and Government... . Oh. (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Minister Joanase.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act – Notice

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, June 4, that Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act*, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters. There are no items before the Committee of the Whole. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is none. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. 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 4:15 in the Nanuq Boardroom, and tomorrow morning there's a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus at ten o'clock also in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 4:

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

6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 25
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): I don't think he even took a breath and did the whole thing. How wonderfully capable you are.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 4, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:07*

Appendix – June 3, 2019



Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

Report on the Review of the 2016-2017 Annual Report and 2017-2021 Corporate Plan of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

**2nd Session of the 5th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Spring 2019 Sitting**

Chairperson

John Main

Co-Chairperson

Cathy Towntongie

Members

Tony Akoak
Joelie Kaerner
Mila Kamingoak
Pauloosie Keyootak
Adam Arreak Lightstone
Simeon Mikkungwak
Margaret Nakashuk
Patterk Netser
Emiliano Qirngnuq
Paul Quassa
Allan Rumbolt

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Introduction

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a hearing on the 2016-2017 annual report and the 2017-2021 corporate plan of the Qulliq Energy Corporation from September 27-28, 2018.

The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. The transcript from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

The standing committee notes its appreciation to the President of the Qulliq Energy Corporation for appearing before the standing committee.



Observations and Recommendations

Issue: Board Governance and Status of the Establishment of a Qulliq Fuel Corporation

The issue of statutorily establishing an audit committee of the board of directors of the Qulliq Energy Corporation was raised during the standing committee's hearing. Subsequent to the standing committee's hearing, Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*, was introduced in the Legislative Assembly. The Bill received Assent on November 8, 2018. Among other measures, the Bill added the following provision to the parent statute:

Audit committee

(3) The Board shall establish an audit committee to ensure the critical and objective oversight of the Corporation's

(a) reporting of financial information; and

(b) practices of strategic management and financial control.

Other committees

(4) The Board may establish any other committee it considers appropriate.

On May 16, 2002, the Government of Nunavut's Ikuma II Report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This report recommended the establishment of a new "Qulliq Fuel Corporation," which would assume the responsibilities of the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services and which would operate alongside the power corporation. During the standing committee's hearing, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's lead witness provided the following testimony:

"If the government approached us to do that, I would certainly be willing to explore that option and see if it was the best option for the Petroleum Products Division, us, and Nunavummiut. I'm not opposed to it. As you can imagine, I'm trying to measure what I say in terms of a response to that question. We're open to it. We're not opposed to it."

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed update on the membership and activities undertaken to date by the audit committee of the board of directors of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify its position concerning the establishment of a Qulliq Fuel Corporation.

Issue: Human Resources Management

A number of issues concerning human resources management at the Qulliq Energy Corporation were raised during the standing committee's hearing.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2017-2021 corporate plan indicated that the Board of Directors was to "undertake a policy review process to ensure the corporate policies recognize the Qulliq Energy Corporation's operational requirements and to the fullest extent possible align with the Government of Nunavut's *Financial Administration Manual*, *Human Resources Manual* and all other Government of Nunavut policies, as applicable." This was to have been accomplished through an initiative to "review human resources policies to assess and revise to ensure alignment with the Government of Nunavut." It also indicated that one of the corporation's priorities has been to "ensure employee overtime is more effectively measured and reflected in the corporate financial statements." The Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2018-2021 corporate plan indicated that "A policy committee was established to review and revise current human resources policies. The committee will develop a plan to adopt Government of Nunavut directives applicable to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and draft new policies to align with the Government of Nunavut."

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, the results of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's review of its human resources policies that was referred to in its 2017-2021 and 2018-2021 corporate plans.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's casual staffing process, including the process for advertising casual employment opportunities; clarify the extent to which the process conforms to Directive 515 ("Casual Employment") of the Government of Nunavut's *Human Resources Manual*; and provide a detailed listing of casual appointments made during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 fiscal years.

The standing committee further recommends that the Qulliq Energy Corporation make its corporate and human resources policies publicly available through posting on its website.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide, in a comparable format to that which was included in Return to Written Question 3-5(2), a detailed breakdown of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's expenditures on overtime pay during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 fiscal years; and that this information be included in future annual reports of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

**Issue: Reviews of the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program, the
Public Housing Support Program and the Affordable Energy Fund**

Information published by the Qulliq Energy Corporation in its most current corporate plan indicates that:

“Two subsidies offered through the Government of Nunavut are the User Pay Program (also known as the Public Housing Power Support Program) and the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program. Residential customers in public housing are able to access the User Pay Program. Eligible customers in the program are billed at a rate of 6.0¢/kWh for their power usage. The Qulliq Energy Corporation invoices the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the difference between the approved residential rate and the 6.0¢/kWh for customers in this program. The Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program (NESP) is offered to all other qualifying residential customers across the territory. The subsidy is based on 50% of the Iqaluit residential electricity rate and it is applied on the first 700 kWh consumed each month between April and September, and on the first 1,000 kWh consumed each month between October and March. The Qulliq Energy Corporation applies the NESP subsidy directly to qualifying customers’ power bills and invoices the GN Department of Finance for the difference between the approved residential rate and the NESP subsidy.”

On June 1, 2018, the Qulliq Energy Corporation announced that:

“The Qulliq Energy Corporation’s proposal to shift from the current varied rate structure to a territory-wide rate structure was not approved ... after consideration of the Utility Rates Review Council’s final report on the General Rate Application, the Qulliq Energy Corporation lowered its proposed rate increase from 7.6% to 6.6%. The increase will affect all residential and commercial customers, with the exception of customers in public housing. As a result of the decision to keep the current rate structure, the Executive Council recommended a review of the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program to evaluate the range of different rates currently charged to each community ... As instructed by [the Minister], the Qulliq Energy Corporation is committed to working closely with the Government of Nunavut to assess the current subsidy program administered through the Department of Finance.”

The Qulliq Energy Corporation’s 2017-2018 annual report, which was published subsequent to the standing committee’s hearing, indicates that:

“The Qulliq Energy Corporation wrote off uncollectable and statute-barred receivables with values greater than \$500.00, amounting to \$1,867,079.20 for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018. The amount reported for the Nunavut Housing Corporation [\$748,872.67] represents 257 very old accounts.”

On November 1, 2007, the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an Affordable Energy Fund came into force. Under this legislation, the purpose of the Affordable Energy Fund is to “hold money appropriated to it in order, directly or indirectly, to subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable.” In 2014, a standing committee of the Legislative Assembly held a televised hearing on the most recent annual report and corporate plan of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. One of the standing committee’s recommendations was that the government should clarify responsibility for the administration of the Affordable Energy Fund. The formal response to the standing committee indicated that the government “... has questioned whether such a Fund is allowed under the *Financial Administration Act* Finance plans to work with QEC to remove this reference from the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*.”

During the standing committee’s September 2018 hearing, the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s lead witness provided the following testimony:

“... the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* is currently being revised and will be before the legislature certainly by the winter sitting. Part of the discussion was surrounding removing that provision from the Act. After discussion with the Government of Nunavut, it was decided to leave the reference to the fund in the Act in case it became applicable at some point in the future. The discussion in terms of whose position it was, it was really the Government of Nunavut’s position that going forward there may be some application to that fund. The Qulliq Energy Corporation’s position is that we thought that because there was no activity in that fund, it may be reasonable to have it removed from the Act, but it is not going through as part of this revision.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the status of its review of the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the status of the Public Housing Support Program, including the current status of arrears.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the status of the Affordable Energy Fund.

Issue: Environmental Remediation of Contaminated Sites

Significant discussion took place during the standing committee’s hearing concerning the issue of environmental remediation of contaminated sites. The Qulliq Energy Corporation’s 2017-2018 annual report, which was published subsequent to the standing committee’s hearing, indicates that:

“The corporation has identified 27 sites (2016-2017: 25 sites) where the concentration of petroleum hydrocarbons and other pollutants in the soil exceeds environmental standards. The contamination of certain of these sites occurred when other parties were responsible for the use of and/or held tenure to the sites. Management has estimated that remediation would cost approximately \$39.0 million (2016-2017: \$38.0 million). No environmental liability provision for remediation of these sites has been recognized in these financial statements as there is no legal requirement to remediate these sites; nor does management have the intention to remediate any of the sites. Going forward, an environmental liability provision for the remediation of any of these sites will be recognized if it is determined that public health is at risk. The corporation has a monitoring program in place to ensure that the identified contaminated sites do not harm persons or the environment.”

The extent to which the federal government will assume responsibility for the cost of any or all of the remediation work remains unclear. During the standing committee’s hearing, the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s lead witness provided the following testimony:

“A number of years ago it was decided that the Government of Nunavut would take the lead on this file, in part because their issue is larger than the issue that the Qulliq Energy Corporation faces on this very same issue. It was decided that they would pursue any further action with the Government of Canada. I can’t comment on more that stands. Unfortunately I have not been briefed on where that file stands currently with the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the status of remediation work in relation to the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s inventory of 27 contaminated sites.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed chronology of actions taken by the Government of Nunavut and the Qulliq Energy Corporation since April 1, 2015, to resolve outstanding jurisdictional issues with the Government of Canada related to responsibility for the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s inventory of contaminated sites that were inherited from the Northern Canada Power Commission.

Issue: Alternative Energy and the Arctic Energy Fund

Significant discussion took place during the standing committee's September 2018 hearing concerning the issue of alternative energy. This issue was also discussed on the occasion of the standing committee's televised hearing on the 2018 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada - Climate Change in Nunavut*, which was held from April 30, 2018-May 1, 2018.

The government's response to the standing committee's report on its review of the report of the Auditor General of Canada was tabled in the House on October 23, 2018. It indicated that:

“The Qulliq Energy Corporation will actively participate in the Government of Nunavut's action plan for the territory's renewable energy priorities and targets. Once a clear plan has been established, QEC will review the territorial objectives within the context of the Corporation's unique operating environment, and develop a QEC specific action plan and report accordingly. QEC anticipates that its small rate base, along with financial, geographical, and technical challenges, will impact the deployment of renewable energy technology and subsequently any related GHG reduction targets. The achievement of these targets will need to be reconciled with the Corporation's primary objective of delivering reliable and affordable energy in an Arctic setting. Renewable energy targets that increase Nunavut's electricity rates, already the highest in the country, will directly affect customers across the territory. Outside of the larger GN framework, the Corporation has already started renewable energy initiatives that do not affect electricity rates. These practical solutions will be important in meeting any proposed GHG reduction targets. The Net Metering program, whereby qualified customers are able to receive credits towards their power bill for renewable energy they produce and feed back into the grid, officially launched in April and QEC continues to accept applications. More ambitiously, with legislative approval, QEC expects to commence its Independent Power Producer program in 2019, enabling further renewable energy generation capacity in Nunavut and reductions in GHG emissions. Working within these technical and financial limitations, incorporating a larger share of renewable energy in Nunavut's generation capacity mix is a jointly held goal of QEC and the GN. To date, QEC has completed, or is in the process of undertaking, multiple feasibility and cost surveys for renewable and alternative technologies. Most prominently, these technologies include Wind and Solar, Hydroelectric, Geothermal, Biomass/Waste, and Nuclear.”

In January of 2019, the Government of Nunavut submitted its Long-Term Infrastructure Plan to the federal government under its Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

On May 21, 2019, the federal and territorial governments jointly announced that:

“The first two projects will see the replacement of seven diesel power generators in six communities: Rankin Inlet, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Whale Cove. These projects will improve energy efficiency and reliability while increasing the overall energy production capacity. The third project consists of building a renewable solar energy and storage system that will be connected to the power plant in Kugluktuk. This project, the first hybrid solar/diesel power plant managed by the Qulliq Energy Corporation in Nunavut, will be used to demonstrate the viability and performance of this hybrid technology in an Arctic climate. It will also provide an alternative source of energy for the community, which currently relies on diesel-powered generators. The fourth project will rehabilitate the sewage lagoon in Kugaaruk in order to increase the existing capacity to treat and manage wastewater. The project includes the construction of a temporary wastewater management system that will be used to remove content from the current lagoon to ensure proper cleaning and preparation for full construction. As a result, residents will have more reliable wastewater treatment services. The Government of Canada is investing more than \$18.6 million in three green energy projects through the Arctic Energy Fund and in one project under the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan. The Government Nunavut is contributing over \$1.6 million for the wastewater project while Qulliq Energy Corporation is contributing more than \$7.6 million in the energy projects.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the status of its “action plan for the territory’s renewable energy priorities and targets.”

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the status of the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s net metering and independent power producer programs, including the number and location of participants and/or projects to date.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the status of the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s current initiatives related to wind/solar, geothermal, nuclear, waste/biomass and hydroelectric power.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the status of its submissions on behalf of the Qulliq Energy Corporation to the Arctic Energy Fund stream of the federal government’s Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

