



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 58

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Pages 3228 – 3295

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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

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

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

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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

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

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

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

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

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

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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	3228
Ministers' Statements	3228
Members' Statements	3230
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	3238
Oral Questions	3239
Tabling of Documents	3256
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills	3257
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	3257
Report of the Committee of the Whole	3294
Orders of the Day	3294

A.

Daily References

Thursday, February 23, 2017..... 3228

B.

Ministers' Statements

234 – 4(3): 34th Annual Meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the
Status of Women (Ell-Kanayuk)..... 3228

235 – 4(3): Outstanding Principal 2017 (Quassa)..... 3228

236 – 4(3): 2017 Northern Perspectives Conference (Taptuna)..... 3229

237 – 4(3): Nunavut-wide Climate Change Adaptation Workshop (Savikataaq) 3230

C.

Members' Statements

438 – 4(3): Incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (Shooyook)..... 3230

439 – 4(3): Rankin Inlet Elder and Youth Centre (Sammurtok, T)..... 3232

440 – 4(3): Federal Funding for Recreational Facilities (Mapsalak) 3233

441 – 4(3): Congratulations to Nunavut's 2017 Badminton Team (Rumbolt)..... 3233

442 – 4(3): Installation of Solar Panels in Kugluktuk (Taptuna) 3234

443 – 4(3): Constituency Visit with Ministers (Joanasie) 3235

444 – 4(3): Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Training for Gjoa Haven (Akoak) 3235

445 – 4(3): Housing Issues (Qirngnuq)..... 3236

446 – 4(3): Public Health Issue Caused by Ravens (Keyootak)..... 3236

447 – 4(3): Update on Sailivik Society's Elder Facility (Angnakak)..... 3237

448 – 4(3): Attending a High School Event (Okalik)..... 3238

D.

Oral Questions

592 – 4(3): Carbon Pricing (Mikkungwak)	3240
593 – 4(3): Federal Funding for Recreational Facilities (Mapsalak)	3241
594 – 4(3): Activities of the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable (Sammurtok, T)	3244
595 – 4(3): Status of New Housing Construction in Sanikiluaq (Rumbolt).....	3245
596 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing (Qirngnuq)	3246
597 – 4(3): Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements (Okalik)	3247
598 – 4(3): Status of NTEP Program (Joanasie)	3248
599 – 4(3): Fuel Prices in Nunavut (Angnakak).....	3250
600 – 4(3): Activities of the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable (Sammurtok, A).....	3252
601 – 4(3): Child Apprehension Practices (Shooyook).....	3253

E.

Tabling of Documents

256 – 4(3): FPT Meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, September 14 to 15, 2016 (Ell-Kanayuk)	3256
257 – 4(3): Correspondence from Ikajutit Hunters and Trappers Organization (Shooyook)....	3256
258 – 4(3): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report 2015-2016 (Savikataaq)	3256

F.

Bills

Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016 – Notice.....	3257
Bill 33 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017 – Notice.....	3257
Bill 35 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018 – Notice.....	3257

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Health – Consideration in
Committee..... 3258

Iqaluit, Nunavut**Thursday, February 23, 2017****Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:30***Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of the Status of Women, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 234 – 4(3): 34th Annual Meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to share that I was in attendance at the 34th annual meeting of federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) ministers responsible for the status of women this past September in Edmonton, Alberta.

Status of women ministers from across Canada agreed to take action to address priority issues for women and girls, including ending gender-based violence. Ministers shared updates on their own jurisdictions' actions to reduce and prevent violence against women and girls, and agreed to identify further opportunities for collaboration on provincial-territorial strategies.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is committed to gender equality and will continue to support the federal government's efforts in developing the Federal Strategy against Gender-based Violence to build safe and healthy communities for women and girls.

Mr. Speaker, today I table the agenda and communiqué from that FPT meeting and I look forward to attending the next meeting of the FPT ministers responsible for the status of women in June 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 235 – 4(3): Outstanding Principal 2017

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to

residents of my community and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my fellow members to join me in congratulating Aubrey Bolt, a principal in Naujaat, who was selected as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals in 2017. He now joins the ranks of 400 members of the National Academy of Canada's Outstanding Principals.

Mr. Speaker, Aubrey Bolt leads a K to 12 school and his commitment to improving school attendance is one of his greatest accomplishments. Mr. Bolt became the principal at Tusarvik School in Naujaat in 2009. Under his school leadership for the past seven years, attendance at Tusarvik School rose from 53 percent in 2009 to 81 percent in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, Aubrey Bolt is a strong advocate of the breakfast program, which he believes contributes to improved attendance.

Mr. Speaker, Canada's Outstanding Principals program was developed by the Learning Partnership and was launched in 2005. Principals are nominated by their peers, school staff, and community members. The award recipients participate in an executive leadership training program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

We are certainly proud of Aubrey Bolt's achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers'

Statements. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 236 – 4(3): 2017 Northern Perspectives Conference

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the Northern Perspectives conference I attended in Winnipeg in early February.

Mr. Speaker, the conference was sponsored by the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce, and the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association in partnership with the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, Northern Perspectives was a business and cultural showcase of Nunavut, with a focus on expanding our economic opportunities and partnership opportunities with businesses in Manitoba.

The Government of Nunavut is committed to working to remove the barriers that prevent us from accessing the resources we need to quickly export our goods to southern markets in a cost-effective way.

Mr. Speaker, the governments of Nunavut and Manitoba re-signed our memorandum of understanding in 2015 to recognize our long history of cultural, trade and transportation ties. I met with Manitoba's Premier Pallister during my time at the event. We spoke about the importance of this MOU and the

potential of a winter transportation link between the Kivalliq and Churchill. In fact I have invited Premier Pallister to Rankin Inlet to continue discussions on this very issue.

Mr. Speaker, we are very interested in supporting growth across all sectors of our economy. Strengthening the tie between Nunavut and Manitoba will help us lay the groundwork for increased and improved business relationships with suppliers and clients.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 237 – 4(3):
Nunavut-wide Climate Change
Adaptation Workshop**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to inform the members that at the end of January, with close collaboration from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, my department delivered a highly successful consultation workshop on climate change adaptation here in Iqaluit. This workshop brought together many stakeholders from every community in Nunavut to discuss adaptation issues across the north, making it the largest adaptation event ever to be held in Nunavut.

This was a great opportunity to ensure that the voices of Nunavummiut will be heard at the national level, as the outcomes of the workshop will directly inform Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's National Adaptation Strategy.

It was also a successful showcase of how well the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated work together to promote and address our shared issues and concerns.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who took the time to participate in this workshop, especially the elders who shared their wisdom with us. By applying the knowledge gained at this workshop, we will be able to better understand local needs and plan for a resilient future for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 438 – 4(3):
Incorporating Inuit
Qaujimajatuqangit**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues, the Premier, those watching our proceedings, and my fellow community residents. I welcome Nunavummiut to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address something I have been pushing hard for, which is *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. The Inuit elected us in Nunavut in expectation that Inuit traditional knowledge that has been missing in their lives will be showcased in this House and their laws recognized.

The Inuit way of counselling is what parents and elders have been calling for to this day. They no longer have anywhere to turn to. It is because they no longer have control over their children after their own lives were broken.

Mr. Speaker, I will use a very important example. Young people used to be sent out to school and leave their parents behind. Their lives were ruined in the process and they're not the same to this day. Some even lost the opportunity to learn the knowledge and skills they would have acquired otherwise. This is very important. It is important enough that it has become a lifelong dedication to ensure future generations will live a good life.

Mr. Speaker, today our children and families find themselves broken apart and destroyed. From a social standpoint, their children are at risk and that is why I want to see laws changed, which no one seems to care about. No one appears to be concerned about the effects of laws that are presently implemented. This is very alien to Inuit and it needs to be changed in the House here.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Quttiktuq is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Shooyook, please proceed.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To reiterate, this is a key issue where our lives are controlled in an alien manner to

the point where suicide has become widespread. This is regrettable as we are now powerless as fathers. If we take disciplinary action with our children, we risk having them taken away from us. That is not good at all.

Yes, I know that we could be held responsible for our actions, but on the other hand, when the authorities claim to act properly, it is causing a widespread breakdown of our lives.

Mr. Speaker, today the Department of Family Services apprehends many children and it is resulting in our precarious situation. I know what I'm saying is true. As I said earlier, those who went to residential school have received apologies and are receiving treatment for their mistreatment. In thinking along those lines, today the Nunavut government has to prepare for the future.

Some of these children currently in foster care have their lives turned upside down when they no longer are in the care of their parents. In looking at the residential school experience, they formed a group to request an apology. When these apprehended children grow up, we may become liable as a government, but we have no funds set aside. When these children grow up, they may sue for damages to their lives, including apologies for the actions of this present government. With no funds set aside and if these children form a group action, how will the government resolve that challenge?

This is part of the risks we are taking, which is why this initiative is so important to me. While this generation of elders is still alive and while we have

a chance, collection should be done of their knowledge in the Kivalliq, Kitikmeot and Baffin regions. We should fund work on collection of this knowledge, especially social customs and counselling levels practised when Inuit were still largely self-governing, as well as collecting and incorporating traditional social resolution techniques in relevant departments.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to advocate for *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* especially related to our departments such as Education, Family Services, Justice, and so on. They should incorporate the social rules and resolution techniques and have Inuit experts.

I tend to get this common refrain from our government representatives that training is required firstly prior to this work. This is entirely untrue. Inuit have thousands of years of practice in social interactions and social resolution techniques practised over many generations. There are many knowledgeable elders in the Kivalliq and Baffin regions. With that being the case, with our society in danger of collapse today, how will we govern? Will we never listen to the wishes of our constituents?

As this is the case we face today, we have to make a collaborative effort to resolve this. As a father, I have seen my authority eroded away and I receive very little support from some of my colleagues here. However, I urge the voters to take this issue seriously and make sure it is recognized, and the funding I mentioned earlier be allocated, along with the hiring of Inuit counsellors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 439 – 4(3):
Rankin Inlet Elder and Youth
Centre**

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to acknowledge with appreciation a recent investment in the community of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday of last week the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency announced that it will be investing \$442,650 into a project to renovate Rankin Inlet's elders and youth centre as part of the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. I have a copy of that press release here.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement indicates that, and I quote, "This investment will support renovations to expand the size of the Centre by adding a meeting room and office space. The renovations will include clean technology upgrades by installing LED lighting and repairs to walls, windows, and doors to increase the energy efficiency and improve the quality of the building."

Mr. Speaker, the announcement also indicates that the Municipality of Rankin Inlet will be contributing \$100,350 to this project. I would like to pay tribute to the mayor and council for their hard work on behalf of the community.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement also indicates that the Government of Nunavut is adding \$50,000 to this project. I encourage the appropriate minister to update the House at the appropriate time on which projects of this nature the GN has been supporting across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the 150th anniversary of Confederation is a time for both reflection and celebration.

Investments such as this one help to bring different generations within the same community closer together and they help to foster intergenerational healing and learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Steve Mapsalak.

**Member's Statement 440 – 4(3):
Federal Funding for Recreational
Facilities**

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about an issue that I have raised in this House on numerous occasions. As we are all aware, most communities in Nunavut do not have a swimming pool.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat continue to express their wishes to see swimming pools opened in their communities.

I recognize that funding for recreational facilities and swimming pools are not the top priority for most communities in Nunavut, many of which must focus on

meeting infrastructure needs related to educational, health and municipal services. However, I believe that access to high-quality recreational facilities has the potential to increase the quality of life in our communities.

Take for example the recent opening of the aquatic centre here in the city of Iqaluit. According to information provided by the city, many residents have been visiting the facility on a daily basis, enjoying its many benefits. I have no doubt that the individuals who take the opportunity to use this facility will begin to see improvements in their health and wellness.

Mr. Speaker, while I understand that the government's capital funds are mainly focused on higher priority infrastructure projects, I believe that our government can play a larger role in assisting municipalities to access federal funds and avenues of funding, which would allow them to construct new and much-needed recreational facilities in our communities.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 441 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Nunavut's 2017
Badminton Team**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the athletes selected to the badminton team which will represent Nunavut at the North American Indigenous Games to be held in Toronto, Ontario in July.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Sanikiluaq hosted the tryouts and over 20 competitive athletes battled hard for the eight positions on the team. It was very nice to see everybody come together.

Mr. Speaker, we were also very fortunate to have Mr. Calvin Halobav from Vancouver, British Columbia travel to help coach at the event and assist with the athlete evaluations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate:

- Nolan Kiguktak and Daryl Iqaluk, who will represent us in the male under 19 category;
- Sappa Cookie will be the alternate in this under 19 event;
- Anna Lambe and Mina Mannuk will represent us in the female under 19 category;
- Sharon Kokseak and Lucy Jo Appaqaq will represent us in the female under 16 category; and
- Mike Kavik and Davidee Kudluarok will represent us in the male under 16 category.

Mr. Speaker, these athletes come from Iqaluit, Qikiqtarjuaq, Grise Fiord, and Sanikiluaq and I am confident that they will be wonderful athletic ambassadors for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these athletes all the best in their training to prepare for success at

the upcoming 2017 North American Indigenous Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 442 – 4(3):
Installation of Solar Panels in
Kugluktuk**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of our communities are looking at ways to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions and to try to save money when it comes to our electrical bills.

Mr. Speaker, in Kugluktuk the hamlet installed solar panels on our recreation complex. The panels were purchased from a grant provided by the federal government. Mr. Speaker, it is another example of one of our communities being proactive and looking for solutions and making decisions on their own.

The solar panels were estimated after installation in June of saving the hamlet over \$2,000 in diesel-generated power in the first month of operation. The hamlet will evaluate the costs and savings of the panels over the coming months, and it will be interesting to see what the potential savings were in that time frame.

Mr. Speaker, solar panels are one option that may be of use to our communities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving money at the local level.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the hamlet and council of Kugluktuk for their proactive work in looking for solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 443 – 4(3):
Constituency Visit with Ministers**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, visitors in the gallery, and those who are listening to our proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a brief report from a recent visit to Kimmirut made by two of my colleagues from across the floor, the Minister of Education, Minister Paul Quassa, and Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister George Kuksuk.

Mr. Speaker, last month from January 16 to 19, I had the pleasure of hosting both ministers in my constituency community. We had an open house and invited residents of Kimmirut to meet and greet our senior government representatives.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, we were able to meet with the Hamlet of Kimmirut, the local district education authority, and the housing association. We also visited and toured the community learning centre, daycare, and the Katannilik Visitor Centre. We also visited the government offices.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Kimmirut, I would like to thank the ministers for their time and eagerness to hear from residents of Kimmirut firsthand. I would also like to thank the people of Kimmirut for welcoming the ministers during their visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

**Member's Statement 444 – 4(3):
Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary
Training for Gjoa Haven**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge a number of my constituents who are currently taking part in a valuable training initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary's Central and Arctic Region is providing a training program this week for a number of Gjoa Haven residents who are taking courses concerning marine search and rescue. Mr. Speaker, this is a valuable initiative that contributes to the safety of our people and communities.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Gjoa Haven who are taking part in this program are:

- Adam Ukuqtunnaaq;
- Susie Hiqiniq;
- Wayne Angnaluaq;
- Benny Porter, Jr.;
- Paul Ikuallaq;
- John Keknek;
- Kenneth Puqiqnak;
- Leonard Teelktak;

- Sarah Kamimmalik;
- Chris Kikoak;
- Winnie Hatkaiittuq;
- Nicholas Okpik;
- Robert Porter;
- Lee Qingnatuq; and
- Peter Aqqaq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me acknowledging this positive initiative and I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to the many Nunavummiut who participate in search and rescue activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 445 – 4(3):
Housing Issues**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Arvilijjuarmiut and Taloyoak. I also say "good day" to my colleagues and our Premier.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the issue of housing.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance's Budget Address yesterday spoke very clearly about the housing crisis and the poverty crisis in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of living in our small and remote communities is very high. I agree with the minister that we must do everything we can to reduce poverty, and I agree that the best anti-poverty program is a job.

Mr. Speaker, the previous government introduced a new public housing rent scale in the year 2013. One of the goals of the new public housing rent scale has been to, and I quote, "reduce disincentives to employment and to support the goals of poverty reduction..." Mr. Speaker, it is not clear to me how effective the new public housing rent scale has been in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that individuals and families with high incomes need to pay a greater share. However, the rent scale itself should not be a disincentive for people, especially young people, from going out and looking for work.

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

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

**Member's Statement 446 – 4(3):
Public Health Issue Caused by
Ravens**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to something that many of you may not have thought about, although it has been my concern for a long time and it has been a concern for some people.

Today illness seems to pop up and the number of people who get terminal illness seems to be increasing. Sometimes it's impossible to tell how a person gets ill, but it has become a real concern to me.

I don't think much thought has been given to the possible impact of ravens.

There are just too many ravens in my community, probably more so than anywhere else in the Baffin. There's no question that we step on ravens' feces and track it in with us while entering buildings. If it is contributing to the increase in illnesses is a cause for concern.

Ravens drop their feces on our doorsteps and entranceways, right along the paths we use. We then enter buildings after stepping on their feces. It's becoming a concern whether or not it is contributing to the increase in illnesses. Many ravens perch on top of our homes and drop their feces. I think a study should be initiated to see if this poses danger.

There are too many ravens, and I will be asking questions at the appropriate time to see if they're contributing to illnesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 447 – 4(3):
Update on Sailivik Society's Elder
Facility**

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's finally my turn. Good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today my Member's Statement will be one of gratitude and also just to provide an update.

I rise today to provide an update on the progress of the Sailivik Society's plan to build a new elders' long-term care facility in the community of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, many individuals and organizations have pledged their time, effort, and goodwill to make this dream become a reality. I am very proud to be part of such a community-driven effort.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the support of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for providing funding to the Sailivik Society to develop a comprehensive business plan for this project.

Although I'm very grateful, I just want the minister to know that there are still going to be some real hard questions coming when it comes to Committee of the Whole, so it doesn't get her off the hook or anything.

Mr. Speaker, as with any project, the Sailivik Society's elder long-term care facility project has faced some challenges along the way. However, as Alexander Graham Bell so aptly put it, "When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us."

Mr. Speaker, the Sailivik Society had identified a beach site for the facility. However, it was found to have contaminated soil and sewer line problems which would have made it very challenging to build it there. Eventually we had to accept that the door had closed on the opportunity to build on that property.

However, I am very happy to report that we received a lot of support, including from the City of Iqaluit, in securing a new location for the elders centre in the

Road to Nowhere area. In this new location the Sailivik Society will be able to build a facility big enough to meet elder care needs now and into the future.

Again I would like to acknowledge the members of the Sailivik board, the various agencies, organizations, and community and government entities as well as the members of the community for their ongoing contributions towards moving this project forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

**Member's Statement 448 – 4(3):
Attending a High School Event**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to report today that last month I was asked, along with City Councillor Terry Dobbin and one of the teachers at the high school, to judge grade 11 students who are learning social studies.

They competed with presentations and we looked at their work on what research they had done. They put together different research papers on how we are affected by past activities. They talked about wars, land claims negotiations and trade. There were different reports and we were glad to see that young people had studied the past and present.

They were all winners in my opinion and we were very happy and proud of looking at their knowledge today. We were told to be there for two hours, but

we were there for three hours because they were eager to present their research and we were happy to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I'll be the first one.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

(interpretation ends) Please join me in welcoming members of the Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal who have joined us today in the visitors' gallery.

They are:

Mr. Bert Rose, Chair of the Tribunal;

Meeka Kakudluk, who is originally from Qikiqtarjuaq;

Elisapee Karetak from Arviat;

John Maurice from Iqaluit; and

Andre Tautu from Chesterfield Inlet.

Accompanying the members of the tribunal are the Executive Director, Tom Demcheson, excuse me if I didn't pronounce it correctly, and Legal Counsel Larry Reynolds.

Welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

(interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual from my constituency of Chesterfield Inlet. I grew up with Andre Tautu and he's a direct relative as we are maternal cousins.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a fellow Arviat resident. Arviat residents rarely come here. You mentioned her already, but I would like to recognize Elisapee Karetak. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This person was already recognized, but I would like to recognize Meeka Kakudluk as I lived in the same community as her for a long time. I know that she is very easy to live with and has a good sense of humour. She doesn't hesitate to talk. I grew up with her in Qikiqtarjuaq and we went to school together.

I would also like to recognize someone

who was my teacher when I first went to school. If Bert Rose hadn't disciplined me, I know that I wouldn't be here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although he has been recognized a couple of times now, I would like to again recognize a constituent of mine, Mr. Bert Rose. Although he didn't teach me as a child, I have taken courses with him as an instructor. Likewise I think some of the teachings that he provided me allowed me to become a member of this legislature here today and it had an impact on my desire to increase my knowledge upon moving to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Bert.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 592 – 4(3): Carbon Pricing

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

I tabled a copy of correspondence that Agnico Eagle Mines recently sent to the Premier concerning the federal government's plan to see carbon pricing mechanisms introduced in all provinces and territories.

For the record, will the Premier be tabling his reply to Agnico Eagle Mines before the end of our winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we go through the normal processes of tabling documents, I certainly will do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to take this opportunity to note that Agnico Eagle Mines has just announced that it will proceed with the development of the Amaruq satellite deposit at Meadowbank, which is near Baker Lake, as well as construction of the Meliadine project near Rankin Inlet. These projects are good news for the Kivalliq and good news for Nunavut.

My question for the Premier is this: did he raise the issue of carbon pricing with

the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Iqaluit and, if so, what was the outcome of these discussions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question. There are a number of different things that I discussed with the Prime Minister and that being one of them. The main topic of discussion was the unilateral decisions that were made for Nunavut, carbon pricing/carbon taxing being one of them that we just signed on to the pan-Canadian climate change framework as the territory. Within that document we put in there where considerations have to be made for Nunavut, considering its uniqueness, the high cost of living, and its delicate economy.

Again, at the end of the day, in the territory of Nunavut we pay the highest prices for daily living. If anything like that that impacts us negatively, the Prime Minister has agreed and it's written in the document where thereby they will assist us in ensuring that we impose a carbon tax that will mitigate some of these negative impacts on the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as most folks are aware, all our supplies, every project, every construction project, and our fuel come from other jurisdictions and once there are carbon taxes applied to those, we will be paying them. Every commodity that comes into Nunavut would have a price increase because of carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, we're in discussions with federal officials and our officials in Finance, Justice, and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to find ways to lessen the negative impacts for the residents of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as everybody well knows, carbon tax will be imposed in 2018 at \$10 a metric tonne of greenhouse gas emissions and therefore increasing to \$50 a metric tonne by 2023. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very interested to note that the new Yukon government has committed to developing a plan to, and I quote, "Return funds collected through a federal carbon pricing mechanism to Yukon individuals and businesses through a rebate system." Is the Government of Nunavut considering a similar approach for Nunavummiut and companies that create jobs for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. Mr. Speaker, again, the uniqueness of Nunavut where we have the highest cost of living, we have indicated and we're discussing with the federal government on why certain fuels should be exempt from carbon tax. That would be heating fuel, generating power, and fuel for the airlines. As everybody is well aware, our mode of transportation

in Nunavut is the airlines other than the sealift that we get once a year for most communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have invited the officials from the mining company, Agnico Eagle, to have a discussion on that come April when Nunavut is having their mining symposium here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 593 – 4(3): Federal Funding for Recreational Facilities

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is well aware, there are a number of federal programs under which municipalities may be eligible to receive funding for the development of recreational facilities.

For example, on February 29 of last year the territorial and federal governments announced five projects related to recreational infrastructure for Nunavut municipalities under the Government of Canada's Small Communities Fund.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government committed more than \$25 million to these projects. For its part, the Government of Nunavut committed approximately \$6 million. I commend both governments for making commitments to the improvement of recreational infrastructure in Nunavut. However, I note with disappointment that Coral Harbour and Nauyasat did not

receive any portion of this funding to develop their own recreational facilities.

Can the minister tell us what specific steps a municipality must take in order to access these types of federal and territorial funds? Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The member is quite persistent in his wish for a swimming pool and I commend him on that. He is doing the work of his constituency, but he sings the same tune and I seem to say the same thing over and over again all the time too. Swimming pools are not a high priority when it comes to infrastructure funding. It comes with safety first, as when there's any kind of infrastructure funding, and stuff that is deemed more emergency type.

As for the funding that the member was talking about, yes, we did announce a bunch of funding mostly for arena upgrades and there was no new infrastructure being built with that money. They were all for upgrades for arenas in a number of communities.

The only new infrastructure was the aquatic centre here in Iqaluit. The majority of that was funded by the City of Iqaluit. The federal government, through the small capital funds, did contribute to that and we thank the federal government for that.

As for how Naujaat and Coral Harbour might be able to get funding for swimming pools through the Nunavut government, they would just put it on their community sustainability programs again. Right now it's not a high priority to fund swimming pools or aquatic centres by the GN. I'm not sure what federal programs are available, but I can look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 9, 2016 federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for sport, physical activity and recreation met in Lethbridge, Alberta to discuss issues concerning sport and recreation across Canada.

The news release issued for this meeting states that ministers, and I quote, "discussed sport and recreation infrastructure needs, and agreed that this is crucial issue in communities in all jurisdictions. In highlighting recent infrastructure funding announcements across the country, Ministers agreed to continue working towards dedicated resources for sport and recreation infrastructure."

Can the minister tell us what specific steps his department has taken to work towards dedicated resources for the development of new sports and recreational infrastructure in Nunavut's smaller communities since June of 2016? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The FPT meeting that the member is talking about, I was not able to attend because we were sitting at the time and I had a prior arrangement right here. We did send some of our officials there.

I don't remember exactly what the communiqué said in terms of what new sports we are encouraging in the smaller communities. I'm not sure what new sports we're encouraging. We encourage all sports. As long as people get active and stay in shape, then it's good for the people that are getting in shape and it's good for the health system. Everyone should be in shape. It's good to be in shape. The ones that just sit around here, we need to exercise too because we don't get that much activity here in our jobs.

As for exactly what sports are we promoting, I don't know. Most of the sports that I hear about are ones that I have heard in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) People would be very happy about this because these facilities are very important to the two communities that I represent.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on June 22, 2016 the federal government announced its Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. Under this program, municipal corporations may apply for funding to cover a portion of costs related to various types of projects,

including recreational facilities such as local arenas and swimming pools.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that it may not be feasible for municipalities to access funding under this specific program. At this time, however, it is important that information concerning these types of programs be provided to the communities at the earliest opportunity.

Can the minister tell us how his department helps municipalities to directly access funding under the federal programs for the development of new recreational facilities in their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not that familiar with the programs the member is talking about, but with any funding sources that are out there, my department will help any municipalities in terms of filling out the application or writing proposals or the guidelines on how to fund it. If there is any aquatic or arena funding available, then our sports department would be more familiar with that. I can get back to the member as to exactly what programs are available for municipalities under this new program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 594 – 4(3): Activities of the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable

Mr. Tom Sammurtoq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question again today is for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I hope you don't feel that I'm picking on you; I'll eventually get to all your cabinet colleagues before the session is over.

Mr. Speaker, just over a year ago the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable adopted a resolution concerning the issue of establishing a road link between Manitoba and the Kivalliq. This resolution concerned the activities of the Winter Road Working Group.

Can the minister update the House today on the recent activities of the Winter Road Working Group? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I don't have any updates for the member on the Winter Road Working Group. I know they have been having discussions, but I don't have any updates other than we should have an update from them at the end of March when we have the next Hudson Bay roundtable. I expect that they should have a report for us then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtoq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in my Member's

Statement today, the year 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Establishing a road link between the Kivalliq and Manitoba would be a nation building accomplishment. However, a national project of this magnitude cannot go ahead without significant support from the national government. Can the minister tell us what response he has had from his federal counterparts regarding this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member is well aware, at one time when I sat over on the other side there, I questioned the minister of the day about all this kind of stuff because I'm a big proponent of the road to link Manitoba to the Kivalliq.

Any meetings I've had with any federal ministers, even if they're not in charge of road or infrastructure, I have tried to impress to them how important it is to be hooked up to the rest of Canada, that we should not be the only jurisdiction that has no links into the rest of Canada by road. We're air access only. I have talked to the infrastructure minister about it and I have not received any replies on it.

There are going to be invitations sent out to federal ministers to attend the Hudson Bay roundtable so that that the Hudson Bay roundtable as a group can tell them their concerns and the values and the positive effects that a link to the rest of Canada might have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am kind of suspecting that the minister may not have the answer to this next question. However, a number of studies have been undertaken over the past decade concerning this project and its scope has shifted over time from an all-weather road to a winter road.

Can the minister provide an estimate today of what the cost would be to construct a winter road between the Kivalliq and Manitoba? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our four-step document that our government put out early in its mandate, the winter road access from Manitoba to Kivalliq is actually on there. The figure that is in there is \$50 million per year to make and maintain the winter road link. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 595 – 4(3): Status of New Housing Construction in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved funding last fall for the construction of 22 new public and staff housing units for the community of Sanikiluaq over the next two years. Fifteen new public housing units and two new staff housing units are scheduled to begin construction in the coming months.

Over the past few weeks I have noticed public housing tenders being advertised, but I have not seen anything for the community of Sanikiluaq. Can the minister confirm when the Nunavut Housing Corporation's tender for the construction of Sanikiluaq's new public housing units will be issued? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that current information on his question, but I will get back to the member on the tendering of the new construction for Sanikiluaq once I get that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next two questions were around the same lines on the tendering. If the minister didn't have the information for my first question, he will not have them for the second. I will wait maybe until tomorrow to ask my other two supplementary questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 596 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Don't feel that we're only picking on you. It is just a request for information.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

In my Member's Statement today I talked about the need for the public housing rent scale to act as an incentive for people to look for work.

Last year the minister tabled the NHC's *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. One of the specific actions in this blueprint is for the NHC to, and I quote, "review best practices related to various models of subsidized housing as alternatives to rent-geared to income."

Can the minister describe what kinds of alternative approaches the NHC will be considering? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. To explain this properly, it's true that we started working on the rent scale and the new rent scale was introduced in 2014. We're not the only department handling

this. We are working with the Department of Family Services and the Department of Finance to see how the rent scale can be improved, what needs to be improved, and what else needs to be reviewed. That is my response to my colleague's question at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the ways that the NHC helps public housing tenants with the high cost of living is by applying a cost of living allowance to rent calculations.

It is my understanding that these amounts are based on the Nunavut Northern Allowance community values that are included in the collective agreement between the government and the Nunavut Employees Union. A new collective agreement was recently signed.

Can the minister confirm whether or not the cost of living allowance that the NHC applies to rent calculations will be changing this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that level of information in front of me, but I will get back to the member once I have that information. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current public housing rent scale has been in place since the fall of 2013. Has the NHC been able to determine how effective it has been in “reducing disincentives” to employment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, the rent scale is under review and we are working closely with other departments such as Family Services. Once we get all of the information and the department has put it together in the form of a report, I will have clearer information and better answers for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 597 – 4(3): Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yesterday during question period my colleague for Tununig asked the Minister of Finance about benefits offered to outlying communities in Nunavut. The Minister of Finance replied that those are covered by Inuit impact and benefit agreements.

Can the minister provide clarification on this matter? From what I understand,

Inuit impact and benefit agreements under Article 26 are only applicable on Inuit owned lands. Can the minister clarify that issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said yesterday, Article 26 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* covers Inuit impact and benefit agreements. I have been a member of several negotiating teams that negotiated the IIBAs that have provided benefits to communities and continue to provide benefits to communities. Of course I’m only speaking from experience in what we do in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I had the honour of negotiating Article 26 and I have firsthand knowledge of those provisions. They only apply to Inuit owned lands, which are 20 percent of the landmass in our territory. Can the minister please clarify that there are no provisions allowing for Inuit impact and benefit agreements for the 80 percent of the lands in our territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Okalik knows, Inuit impact and benefit agreements are available to regional Inuit associations on behalf of

their beneficiaries. They have identified the lands where they can be negotiated. As I said, I have negotiated and I have been a part of negotiating teams. I have been quite successful in negotiating the IIBAs in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'll quote the land claims agreement. Article 26.1.1(b), a project is negotiable for Inuit impact and benefit agreements if it "is a project involving development or exploitation, but not exploration, of resources wholly or partly under Inuit Owned Lands." That's 20 percent of our territory. We don't have a choice. We have selected our lands and they make up about 20 percent of the landmass. The other 80 percent is not negotiable for Inuit benefits. Can the minister please clarify that once again that is the land claims agreement? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I don't know why Mr. Okalik needs clarification. He understands the IIBAs. He says that he has negotiated or he has made those kinds of comments in the House and here and there over the years. I don't know why he needs clarification.

As I said, the IIBAs are available under Article 26 of the land claims agreement. I have been on negotiating teams and they have benefited the Kitikmeot very well over the years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 598 – 4(3): Status of NTEP Program

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

Mr. Speaker, in 2013 the Office of the Auditor General of Canada presented its report on education in Nunavut. A number of the observations and recommendations in that report addressed the need for more Inuktitut-speaking teachers in Nunavut.

Can the minister provide an update on Nunavut Arctic College's Teacher Education Program (NTEP) and specifically what steps are being taken to increase the number of Inuktitut-speaking teachers in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for requesting that information. As it is very important, I am pleased to provide an update. I would first like to say that as I speak, there are presently 83 students taking the Teacher Education Program in different communities and also here in Iqaluit. I'm very pleased that we have so many NTEP students who are currently taking the program.

As the member indicated, I'm very well aware of the observations and recommendations that were in the Auditor General's report. We are currently looking at the observations and recommendations as part of the review of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. Officials from the University of Regina, Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Education are currently reviewing the program and how they can realign it so that we can increase the number of graduates. We expect that this review will be done by the end of this year. I wanted the focus of the review to be on how we can produce Inuktitut-speaking teachers and how there can be more Inuktitut taught in the classes.

As I indicated earlier, there are 83 students taking the NTEP program. They are continuing with the program while the review is being conducted. I expect to review the new program possibly at the very end of this year and that is specific to Inuktitut-speaking teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut Arctic College's Teacher Education Program is the territory's primary means of training and certifying Nunavummiut to become teachers.

Can the minister clarify whether any first year NTEP programs are currently being delivered across Nunavut and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Iqaluit for the first year, we have eight students, and in Kugaaruk for the first year, we have 15 students enrolled in the program. That's for this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. Members have been given to understand that a comprehensive review of the NTEP program is currently underway. Can the minister provide an update on the intent and purpose of that review and clarify whether the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation will be involved in any reforms proposed under the NTEP review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for continuing with that question because our fellow residents of Nunavut need that information.

We started that review because we found that there were Inuit graduates from that program who prefer to teach in English. We wanted to do a review for that reason and revamp the program so that NTEP students would be able to teach their students in Inuktitut and to make sure that the students are proud of speaking Inuktitut. The intent and purpose of that

review is to make sure that it comes across and that more Inuktitut is used. I think that was the bottom line of his question. That's what we're doing with the NTEP review to date.

The member is well aware that I'm also a member of the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation as well as our Premier. We would like to see an increase in Inuit employment within the government and that very much includes teachers. Makigiaqta and its advisory council are well aware that more teachers need to be added and the need for more support and how Makigiaqta is geared to that goal. Yes, we will look at how to get them much more involved. As a government, we have to look at the different options and different alternatives to increase the level of Inuit employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 599 – 4(3): Fuel Prices in Nunavut

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Last month the Government of Nunavut announced changes to fuel prices across the territory. In its announcement the government indicated that these changes reflect a number of variables, including fuel delivery costs in each of the territorial regions.

My first question for the minister is: can the minister indicate what specific changes to the territory's fuel delivery

processes have affected its fuel prices for the current year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two of the major causes that affect the fuel prices are the world price of fuel and our Canadian dollar. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A short answer.

Mr. Speaker, in its announcement the government indicated that changes to Nunavut's fuel prices also reflect the adoption of a "uniform pricing structure for all fuel consumer groups in Nunavut." Can the minister explain what this uniform pricing structure entails? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the member's sake, I'll try to make this answer a little longer now then.

>> *Laughter*

We have unified the prices in terms of putting them into a regional price for fuel. Each community used to be its own price and now we have rationalized it so

that each region has one price for one product to make it simplified.

Another thing we have done is we have the same consumer price now. In the old system there were up to 14 different prices in the community depending on who the customer was and now there's just one price no matter who you are as the customer in the community. It makes it much easier to calculate exactly what your sales are in terms of dollar figures. To figure out how much dollar figures you took in, you had to come up with up to 14 different prices for fuel in each community and each community had a different cost too.

Now we have one cost per region and one cost per customer. It will make it much easier in the future to try to figure out what the fuel price should be the next time we get fuel. To get the cost of fuel, we have to figure out how much of the old fuel is left that we bought at last year's prices and how much new fuel we have at this year's prices, and then harmonize the two.

We want to sell it as cheaply as possible without making any loss to the PPD. As the GN is the biggest customer, we do our best to keep the prices down without putting the PPD into a deficit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. In line with that last question, in its announcement the government provided an updated list of retail prices for fuel

across the territory. This list became effective on January 30, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I note that this list does not include information on the retail prices of gasoline and diesel for vehicles for the city of Iqaluit. According to the government's list these specific prices are, and I quote, "available at vendor's locations."

Can the minister explain how the retail prices of gasoline and diesel for vehicles are determined in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'll try to explain for the member.

In all the communities except for Iqaluit, PPD tenders are on a commission base. An RFP goes out and a proponent puts a bid in on how much they will charge to sell the fuel. The tanks are owned by the PPD or the GN, the vehicles are owned by the GN, and they just put a bid on how much they're going to pay to deliver the fuel. The fuel is owned by the GN.

In Iqaluit here it's different. The fuel comes in and the contractor buys the fuel from the GN. It is not the GN's gasoline or diesel anymore. Once it's offloaded from the ship and into the tanks here, the contractor owns the fuel then. The contractor then sells the gasoline to the retailers in town at a set price that is set between the contractor and the GN, and then the retailers sell it for what they

want. We cannot dictate to the retailers what to sell the fuel for because it is their own fuel, but we dictate to the contractor that has the fuel in the tanks on what to sell the fuel for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 600 – 4(3): Activities of the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable

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

Mr. Speaker, over a year ago the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable adopted a resolution concerning the establishment of a hydroelectric power transmission line from Manitoba to the Kivalliq.

During the winter 2016 sitting of the Legislative Assembly my colleague, the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, asked the minister a number of detailed questions concerning this initiative. In his response the minister indicated that, at that time, the members of the roundtable were working on securing federal funding to undertake a feasibility study of this hydroelectric power transmission line.

Can the minister tell us today if the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable has been successful in securing funding for this study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was at the last Hudson Bay roundtable back in February in Churchill, and I remember the resolution clearly and it passed.

The energy working group was supposed to be working on this and they were supposed to put in proposals to try to get funding to do a pre-feasibility study. As of today I cannot comment on whether it was successful or not, but the energy working group will be putting forward an update at the end of March when we have our next Hudson Bay roundtable and I'll have more information then.

Partly the reason it's hard to get the information is because the working groups are not under any one organization. They're from different departments, both government and non-government. That's the only update I have for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us what specific support the Government of Nunavut has provided to the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable in its efforts to secure federal funding for a feasibility study of the hydroelectric power transmission line? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Energy Secretariat, which

was with ED&T, the PYs were transferred over to the Department of Environment not that long ago. It was amalgamated to become the Climate Change Secretariat and the Energy Secretariat would have been more involved in that.

In terms of funding, CGS does fund a good majority of the Hudson Bay roundtable to actually hold an event. That's the main way in how we fund projects like that right now because CGS is the main funder of the Hudson Bay roundtable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable will be meeting later this month. Can the minister confirm if the hydroelectric power transmission line will be an item on the agenda for that meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The agenda is not out yet, but for sure it will be on the agenda, both the hydroelectric power line and the land link to Manitoba. Both will be on the agenda as they are at every Hudson Bay roundtable. I'm hoping that we can get some progress and some good discussions on those two subjects when we're having the Hudson Bay roundtable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 601 – 4(3): Child Apprehension Practices

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask a question, I don't like to dwell on what we have said already, but I would like to ask for clarification.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked questions to the Minister of Family Services on the apprehension of children. Before children are apprehended, do you have discussions with the parents in the 25 communities in Nunavut?

I had understood the response that you provided that you consult fully with the parents, but some of my constituents have told me that some parents are not even notified before their children are apprehended. Can you clarify if you do have discussions with the parents, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister for Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking those questions. The Department of Family Services deals with the children and youth put under its care throughout Nunavut. They represent our future and to help secure that future, we try to determine what is

best for the children and youth under our care.

With respect to his question on apprehension, no child can be apprehended under the law without due process. By law Family Services cannot bypass requirements to notify parents in the process of apprehending a child or youth. It is only when the safety of a child or youth is in jeopardy that emergency steps can be taken. This apprehension would only be temporary. The family would then be notified about the actions taken with the child or youth.

The Government of Nunavut is presently working hard on how to reduce the people who go through this kind of situation. We have found that this process reduces this kind of incidence. Yes, that's what we try to do today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Minister, I have another question for you. In 1967 we gave our children to the schools and left them.

I think there is also a problem on the lack of care when people get addicted to alcohol and drugs, those non-tobacco products. Could this be a reason for a lack of care for their children? They would have cared more for their children if they didn't use those substances.

When the Department of Family Services becomes aware of these issues, do they try to help the parents overcome

these addictions? Is that the case right now? I think that alcohol and drugs are a part of the reason. Can you elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my colleague for that question. The Government of Nunavut, the Department of Family Services, and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation held consultations with Nunavummiut on what they think about the process.

We have worked on parenting programs and this is under the Department of Family Services. We can't address parts of your question, but we are involved with families and communities on parenting and how well parenting should be planned. We try to provide assistance in any way through the Department of Family Services. If addictions are a problem, then the department is involved in healing programs.

As I said about parenting or child rearing, it's directed towards families or people who have children, what problems families have within the home, and how to better understand it so that they can be guided by the Department of Family Services. This is ongoing.

We have identified family resources workers as an ongoing program. It's obvious that once the positions are filled, there will be an opportunity to do more work on Inuit culture or other avenues. They will be part of the social work team in the communities. Those are the types of programs.

We have been to school and I have gone through schooling personally. Some of my siblings have been to Churchill to go to school. My younger sibling went to Nova Scotia for one year without ever seeing us. These are the types of issues he asked about that can be the reasoning. However, based on what I have experienced personally when it comes to schooling, I look at ways of how assistance can be provided for those affected.

The government has directed us to work on this. That's the only response I can provide right now. The communities and families that have been impacted by alcohol or drugs are involved. This is what we are trying to do right now and I expect that this will carry on in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Minister of Family Services for his interesting response.

Since I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly in 2014, I have been asking questions to the Minister of Family Services to incorporate traditional Inuit counselling methods in the department's system. The usual response is that they are in support of incorporating Inuit counselling methods. I have been very pleased to hear that we will eventually see Inuit traditional counselling. However, I don't see anything in the business plan to incorporate Inuit counselling methods into the programs.

Due to the fact that our children are very important and they are connected to us, I would like to ask the minister again what his objectives are in the future to recognize traditional counselling. Are we going to be using the same system that we used under the Government of the Northwest Territories into the future? What are your goals regarding this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Quttiktuq for that question. The Department of Family Services has been impacted by the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate of the government. This mandate and the Government of Nunavut's core beliefs that are reflected in its legislation and regulations are based on Inuit societal values. I know that we have been implementing these core beliefs on Inuit societal values within the Department of Family Services' corporate offices.

I can also tell you that we do want to work on societal values through the Iliasaqvik Society in Clyde River so that social workers can develop and learn traditional counselling. We have utilized the services of Iliasaqvik from Clyde River in order to provide more support to parents. Social workers have been taking the training course on traditional counselling, especially on how to better assist parents. Currently the Iliasaqvik Society is being used for training programs with their services.

On February 14, 2017 the Department of Family Services was informed by the Iliasaqvik Society, but we want the

social workers to take the training at the Ilisaqsivik Society. They are lacking space at this time. We will probably have to postpone that training to 2017-18 if space becomes available at Ilisaqsivik.

I also want everyone to be aware that as the Government of Nunavut, not just through my portfolio, we agree that Inuit societal values will be incorporated and I can agree and say yes to the member's question that we will pursue this matter seriously. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of the Status of Women, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 256 – 4(3): FPT Meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, September 14 to 15, 2016

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the federal-provincial-territorial meeting of ministers responsible for the status of women held in Edmonton, Alberta from September 14 to 16, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Documents. The Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Tabled Document 257 – 4(3): Correspondence from Ikajutit Hunters and Trappers Organization

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of correspondence that I recently received from the Ikajutit Hunters and Trappers Organization, which operates in Arctic Bay.

Mr. Speaker, this correspondence relates to the organization's need for office space in Arctic Bay. I will have questions on this issue during our current winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 258 – 4(3): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report 2015-2016

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the *Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report*, April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016 – Notice

Bill 33 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017 – Notice

Bill 35 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three notices of motions for first reading of bills.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 24, 2017, that Bill 32, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 5, 2015-2016*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 24, 2017, that Bill 33, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2016-2017*, be read for the first time.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 24, 2017, that Bill 35, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2017-2018*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters. Bill 34 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 41 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:28 and Committee resumed at 15:55*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, Inuit and colleagues. Welcome to the meeting.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 34?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Health if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, minister, please introduce your officials. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. With me today, as yesterday, I have my Deputy Minister, Colleen Stockley. Also joining me at the table today is Mr. Greg Babstock, the Executive Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before I go to the person on my list on page H-4, the minister would like to make a statement. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to respond to a question from the member from Iqaluit-Sinaa yesterday with the enquiry of how many Inuit nurses that we employ at the Department of Health. I do have that information today.

For the record, we have three Inuit midwives employed and nine Inuit nurses. Three of those nurses are in nurse supervisory management positions, one in home care, one is a CHN, one clinical educator, two hospital nurses here in Iqaluit, and one nurse in acute care in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for the update, minister. Yesterday we were at Health Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$41,534,000. On page H-4 my next name on the list is Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question. First of all, welcome to the minister and his officials.

I would like to ask a question regarding suicide prevention on page 3 of the minister's opening comments. Last year in 2016 there was a suicide prevention conference in Iqaluit. Have you held any suicide prevention meetings in the smaller communities since the initial meeting in Iqaluit? That's my question for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard specifically to suicide, the Department of Health hasn't had any meetings in other communities. There is an upcoming meeting in the community of Cape Dorset that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is doing and there is some collaboration with our Quality of Life division on that one. Thank you

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand that more now. I thank the minister. What are your plans for the future to try to move this issue forward, to find more solutions for the smaller communities? I would like to know if you have any plans to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. It gives me the opportunity again to really highlight the focus of basically a lot of our suicide prevention initiatives. We want to make sure that the functions of the Quality of Life division... . We want to make sure that there's engagement at the community level. I can't reinforce that enough. We can't have, like I said yesterday, a cookie-cutter approach. What works in one community may not work in another.

That being said, there are still best practices of lessons that we learn through coordinated meetings such as a couple that I have attended here in Iqaluit along with other partners. Again being said, we do want to make sure that through the Quality of Life grants and contributions, if a community feels that they need to hold a special event or some type of a counselling event like a healing circle or something of that nature, those funds could be applied for through our grants and contributions policy that we're finalizing to accommodate any communities that want to have specific events for their community.

I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's much clearer now. I'll move on to a different topic. In your opening comments on page 5 it states that "The department is seeking \$1.17 million to fund the development of a nurse mentorship program."

There are individuals who help people. Even though they haven't been trained, they're quite able to help people. We have that in our community. In Nunavut it's very challenging to work on mental health issues. We all know that. What sort of training program is there for people who help with counselling? Have you ever thought of developing a training program for local counsellors? I hope I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely we do have those services available. Iisqaqivik in Clyde River is a shining example of some of the Inuit that get trained in counselling practices. We've had very good success rolling out different counsellors in different communities to deal with sudden issues but as well as for training people.

In addition to that, the positions that we're applying for, for mental health and addictions, we want to make sure that those are people from the community that can be developed into assisting with the professional mental health people to

make sure that there's a community individual or group of people that can not only make sure that the clinical side of things are covered, but the cultural and the community-led initiatives can be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. The paragraph below that is about the elders' homes and there is "\$200,000 in capital funding from Family Services for minor capital maintenance projects." It doesn't mention any community. Can you tell us which communities that money will go to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those dollars were approved under Family Services' budget, so we're simply transferring them over to Health. That's just for any minor capital improvements that need to be done to facilities as those needs are recognized. I don't have the specific list right now, but I know we have had some monies allocated outside of that through the Nunavut Housing Corporation to do renovations on the elders centre in Arviat and as well as here in Iqaluit.

With that \$200,000 specifically, it's just to deal with any capital improvements as needed, so technically it's for all of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other question I have relates to the money that is

supposed to be used to help health committees in the amount of \$250,000. What are they allowed to use the money for once it has been transferred to the communities? I'm asking that question for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the member for raising that issue. It's a very important one. It provides some core funding to the wellness committees in each community in the amount of \$10,000 for each community. In addition to that, again as we roll out our grants and contributions policy through the Quality of Life Secretariat, there is also \$2.8 million available for community-led initiatives on mental wellness and community wellness.

We want to make sure that they have that core funding so that they can make sure that the capacity is there to promote or continue existing programs that they may have initiated previously. It's not specific for one type of project. Communities have a lot of flexibility with those dollars to make sure that it can be used as they see fit. Additional funds are available, which will likely be a proposal-based basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question. People sometimes get sick in our communities, whether they are young, adults, or elders, and some of them can speak English while others can't. What I would like to understand

better is: if an Inuk elder can speak in English, for example, and that person is 65 years or older, if that person is sick, would that person be ineligible for an escort? I don't know if I'm coming across clear. What I'm trying to say is: can a medical escort be provided even if a sick person is able to speak in English? I'm asking that for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The policy is designed to make sure that unilingual elders are provided with an escort. With the circumstance that the member raises with a bilingual elder, it would totally depend upon the care needs.

There are other parameters of whether escorts are deemed necessary or not for mental and physical needs:

- If there is any information that needs to be shared with other people from the client to make sure that care at home needs to continue;
- If there is legal consent by a guardian that would be needed if they were under a type of trusteeship where somebody was a guardian over them;
- Like I said, if they have a mental or physical condition that would prevent them from travelling without assistance;
- If an escort is required for the client to participate in the treatment program or needs to receive instructions on specific and essential home, medical or nursing procedures that cannot be given to the client alone; and in addition to that,

- If the client has a clinical medical need.

It depends upon what the person is travelling down for. Typically if it's just, as the member mentioned, a bilingual elder that is going down that doesn't fit those other parameters, then they would not have an escort provided. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister's response is very clear. I would like to say further that I can speak in English but not fluently. I have a partner who is very knowledgeable about health matters and a lot of Inuit are like that. That's what I wanted to say to the minister.

I said that was going to be my final question, but I think this will be my final question. When you're dealing with medical issues, I don't envy you and I'm proud of you. We know it's very challenging to deal with.

Looking at the future for the smaller communities, they cannot get jet service and when someone needs urgent medical attention, how can a faster plane be sent to pick up that patient? Has that been considered for the future? That will be my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to touch briefly upon the member's comment before his question. There also is an appeals policy that is available. If people feel that an escort is warranted, there is an appeals process that they can attempt

to justify the reasoning behind providing an escort.

I do want to remind members, as I mentioned yesterday as I got some questions from the member from Sanikiluaq, again, Health is coming to the legislature for a supplementary appropriation and a big chunk of that is medical travel. We don't get any assistance for providing medical travel to escorts. That is strictly on the government's dime. We do have to make sure that we have guidelines and policies to follow. It's challenging.

I can speak from experience. Since I have been sitting in this chair, I've had to substantiate and defend the department's decision to deny escorts. I know that people want to be with their loved ones when they're travelling for medical reasons. We do have to have lines drawn and policies developed to make sure that we're also keeping accountable to the taxpayer, the general resident of the territory, and to this Assembly for the costs that we incur. I did just want to mention that from the member's comment.

With regard specifically to the type of aircraft that is used for travel, the RFPs that we put out for emergency medevac travel have specific types of aircraft listed in there. Sometimes due to necessity, one aircraft may not be available where they will have to go down the line, but typically they are under the understanding that in all cases they use the fastest transport available at the time.

It is something that we keep aware of, especially when we come up for RFP negotiations and discussions with

Community and Government Services. Within our own procurement we want to make sure that we're getting the best aircraft available at the time for the services that we need. We rely upon aviation experts to provide guidance in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your staff.

Before I actually go into my questions here, on page 3 of your opening comments, the last paragraph and the second bullet there it reads, "Management of a grants and contributions program for community-led solutions called Upigivagitsi Grants and Contributions Program."

I am somewhat confused as to what that word means, "Upigivagitsi." It's the first time I have ever heard it. Maybe the minister can clarify that since it's in all of his documents here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been informed that the interpretation is "to rise up." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's the first time I have ever seen it and it's the first time I have ever heard it. Thank you. Be that as it may, for that particular program, I'll probably have a fairly long preamble here.

However, for the benefit of our constituents out there, I just want to understand what this program is all about. It's under your Quality of Life Secretariat.

I'll read your business plan description of what this program is. "This Contribution Program allows community and wellness organizations to operate healing groups, bereavement support groups, on the land healing programs, means restriction, after school leadership programs and other community lead initiatives for suicide prevention, intervention and post-vention, mental wellness and resiliency. It also allows for suicide prevention planning, community-led research, training, professional development and self-care."

According to your draft 2017-18 business plan, as I just read, it's meant to be a contribution program for community wellness organizations. Can you describe how organizations will be assisted in planning suicide prevention programs and apply for funding under this program, and who will decide which applications receive funding? I realize that's two questions there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. It's a very important one and I have touched on it a little bit earlier in the proceedings, but it gives me an opportunity to really narrow the focus on it.

Part of the monies that we have allocated in that budget is to help develop the capacity to be able to assist the

communities in their initiatives. The other portion is strictly for grants and contributions to direct fund organizations, not just community wellness groups but potentially other organizations that can apply for funds that would put on suicide prevention programming.

With specifics to the grants and contributions policy, as I had mentioned earlier, we're in the final stages of that, so I don't have the details on exactly who and how the approval process will be, but it is very near completion. As soon as I get that, I will inform members so that they can inform their communities on how to access those funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the same Quality of Life Secretariat, you also have what's called, and I understand this is a fairly new program, a mobile trauma response program. According to your draft 2017-18 business plan, a mobile trauma response program will operate to provide care, counselling, and healing to Inuit communities and Inuit language clients.

Can you provide further detail on how this program will operate, where it will be based, and how it will be determined when to send a mobile trauma response team to a community and when to provide services by telephone? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll do my best to answer this without having to swap out a witness. I

thought we had most of the Quality of Life questions out of the way, so I switched witnesses with me today. I do have my associate deputy minister of the Quality of Life Secretariat on standby here, but I'll do my best to answer the question that the member posed.

You may recall the member to my left brought up the issue in Qikiqtarjuaq where recently the mobile response unit went in. He was acknowledging the success and impact it had on the community. In the recent inquest in Igloolik we sent in members from the mobile trauma response team to assist any counselling needs that needed to be addressed.

With specifics on how they're requested, that can come from a number of different options. It can come from the hamlet or municipality. It can come from the mental health workers that currently exist in the community. It can come from the health centre or it can come from other community organizations that feel the need due to a recent occurrence of a situation that may deem necessary to bring in further support to deal with any counselling or trauma needs in the community. There are a number of different avenues that that can be addressed.

We do have it rolled out in the Baffin region right now. Like I said, it has been very active. I believe it has just been recently established in the Kivalliq and it's in the process of being established in the Kitikmeot. I'm seeing my side witness nodding her head, so I'm getting it right.

We have seen very high success in the impact that these trauma response units

are having. It's in the opinion of the department and me personally that it's a really good utilization of services that, instead of having so many more counsellors in a community, we can have a specific group that is used to dealing with these types of issues that can go in right away to deal with an issue in a community where something has occurred that again it deems where we need to inundate that community with counsellors due to whatever traumatic event is occurring. Face-to-face counselling is important for sure, but we also have Inuktitut toll-free counselling lines that people can call for support and even for follow-up support.

Right now in Rankin Inlet they're partnering with the Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre. In the member's home community we have already established a mobile trauma response team there and we're looking at rolling it out to the Kitikmeot in the very near future as well. Like I said and I'll repeat again, we've had very good success. That's why it was kind of a pilot, but we're rolling it out we have seen such dramatic success with it. With a lot of the counsellors being trained in the Clyde River facility, it has been very advantageous to the communities that they have participated in this. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome Minister George Hickes. I thank you for being in charge of a large responsibility, and I welcome your officials to the committee.

Normally I don't like to bring up an issue again, but I wish to ask for clarification on this particular one. Suicide is a very important issue in the communities and we have said as we sit here that it should be addressed as a very urgent issue. My colleague to my left asked for support in his remarks, Mr. David Joanasi.

The issue of ending one's own life is important and is based on a number of reasons. Have you reached any conclusion on the factors that lead to suicide? What causes people to give up on living and end their lives? That is my first question Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. It's not easy to define specific triggers. There are a number of different studies, statistics, and different analyses. An example recently, we had a member of our Quality of Life Secretariat visit Arctic Bay and spoke to a number of residents there. It was determined that a healing circle would be advantageous for people to be able to talk about some of the past traumas and issues. That's something that we're looking at setting up and funding a healing circle in Arctic Bay.

The member himself has raised past historical traumas, residential schools, and a number of different things that have led people to have challenges in parenting, which creates challenges for the children on how to cope with adversity and break-ups of relationships. I think one of the best things we can do for our youth specifically is work to give them the coping skills to be able to challenge adversity so that if something

doesn't go their way, they will turn and face it and challenge it versus considering suicide as an option to escape.

It's an all-consuming battle. There's no specific occurrence that we can identify. There are a number of different issues. That's, again, where we work with the communities. Each community needs to decide on what specific programming needs to be addressed to deal with any common occurrences on reasons. I know I have lost family members to suicide as well. Sometimes there's just no answer. I know we focus a lot on youth, but there are also people from different age demographics that resort to suicide that we need to address those concerns as well.

I hope I answered the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is a difficult question to answer because I know a troubled child is in pain as well as their father and that can further contribute to the child's pain. When a child is not raised properly, they feel pain and, when they turn into adults, their pain becomes a source of anger. There are indeed a number of reasons why an individual would choose to end their life.

That being the case, I was happy to hear your response regarding how *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* must be recognized within this department, which I constantly call for. This is why healing during counselling is very important. You stated that the people who are working at Ilisaqsivik are receiving

training on counselling techniques, which I am very pleased to see, but there's always a "but" in there.

We have counsellors that are qualified in modern terms. For example, *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* is still dormant. Isn't the Inuit way of counselling a part of the programming at Iliasaqivik? I would like clarification on that first of all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think maybe it's kind of an error on our part of how we're explaining this. IQ in counselling is intermeshed with all of our programs. That's where we're getting the guidance from the communities on how they feel that the counselling and how the programming needs to be focused to make sure that we're dealing with the immediate need as well as the long-term need.

When we look at the Inuit Counsellors' Training and Mentorship Program, we work with local people. We have partnered with Iliasaqivik to provide the Inuit counsellor training and mentorship, but we also focus that counselling on Inuit language, culture, values, traditions, and heritage. We currently have two health staff that have successfully completed all four phases of the training to receive their certificates.

We look at peer support. We look at people that can take a look at intercommunity, like you said, people that may not be professionally trained counsellors but have that ability to counsel. They can work with the community wellness coordinator

together to enhance the programming that is available. We're going to take a look at any and all options that we can provide; what people request. We're not here to put up barriers. We're not here to limit the type of focus. We've had a lot of discussions with Culture and Heritage to make sure that we're navigating and coordinating through different counselling programs.

We want to make sure that mental health and addictions staff are sent to Iliasaqivik so that they can understand from the clinical side as well as from the cultural side. When I talk about meshing clinical and traditional knowledge together, that's where we're going to see the most benefit. When we have Inuit that are trained counsellors and we have clinically trained counsellors working side by side, they're going to learn from each other and they're going to be able to enhance each other's role moving forward in all of their counselling methods.

I think we're not doing a good enough job maybe saying because it's so immersed and inundated. Everything that we're looking at is taking culture and history into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I'll elaborate further on this. I'm happy that Inuit can be involved.

I will tell you about my own experience from the past. Even though there was a mental health worker, there were times when there were none. I'm not against this, but this presents a problem in

Nunavut. We were not even aware of mental health when I was a child, but we need to talk about it now. I'm not critical of anyone, but it needs to be addressed and that is the smoking of cannabis and the consumption of drugs. When people receive these substances, they start selling them to others. It has reached the point where they seriously need help.

I reached a point where I had to flee from my own home and so I approached the RCMP and social services. I was told that they cannot help me. The person who was doing this to me had to ask for help himself before he could get help. Why couldn't I get help? I was in bad health and it was impossible to be home. I was never happy about this situation. I would like you to make progress in your jobs. I was told it is only if I am physically assaulted that they could help me. That hurts! According to Inuit culture, once somebody is found to need help, an experienced person is able to counsel them. According to law now, it's only when I am physically assaulted that I can finally receive help.

There are other people in Nunavut who go through the same experience. When that's the case, I fully support you and encourage you to do more work and to make funding available for the smaller communities to get healers and mental health workers. There are easier cases that don't take very much time, but if you make funding available for healers and mental health workers and once they get help and provide addictions services, that's the way it can be improved and I encourage that. It's just a comment that I wanted to put out there. I just wanted to ask if you can clarify if you will allocate funding for this. The issues of drugs cause a lot of pain and are addictive.

Can you provide funding for such things? It's really hurtful when people get addicted to cannabis and drugs. How can this be lessened? I know it's difficult. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm listening. There are more and more options that are becoming available. The challenge is that at some point the individual that needs counselling needs to recognize that they need counselling. Now, that can be assisted. Families can speak to counsellors themselves and help get involved in the treatment of the person that needs counselling.

The member talks about drugs and alcohol and I talked earlier about statistics. One of the statistics that has always jumped out at me is, and I can't remember the exact number, but when somebody does commit suicide, there's a large percentage of the time that they are under the influence of something and likely would not have taken that dramatic step if they were not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. That's something that we're always working with, with our education and, again, with our community wellness groups to make sure that there's a focus on people learning how to consume alcohol appropriately, to stay away from drugs, binge drinking, and bad habits with those types of substances.

I am listening to the member and I know all my officials are. That's what we're working towards, to make sure that whenever somebody needs help, whether it be a family member or the person directly, there are supports that are able

to be provided in the community as much as possible to be able to assist the family through scenarios like what happened to the member where a family would be able to seek counselling on behalf of that person. Maybe together they could coordinate an approach to help identify that person and recognizing that they need help.

I hope that's sufficient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. I want to understand more clearly for myself and the listening audience, so I thank you for that.

In your business plan for 2017, it's my understanding that this will be fully implemented in 2018 for the communities. The smaller communities go through more challenges. As the minister, before our term has ended, I urge you to implement these programs to provide more assistance for counselling for smaller communities. Housing is also usually a problem.

There are some elders who are trained in this field. Can you utilize those elders more? Can you get their help in providing addictions counselling services in the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the start of the contribution agreement through the Quality of Life, it's going to help provide funding to the community

groups, sometimes the community wellness groups or other organizations.

Again, with the collaboration from the capacity that is being developed within Quality of Life, I hope that there's always some component of that of any project that comes forward that is inclusive for elders and the experiences and value that they can add to almost any discussion.

Again, these are all community-led proposals that we want to see so that people know in their community who can assist, what elders or even what youth are good role models that we can help promote healthy living in all of our communities, absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on the list, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Hickes and your officials.

Before I ask a question to Minister Hickes, I would like to thank you and Ms. Stockley. You are aware that in the past winter I have approached you more than once to tell you about somebody who I think definitely needs help. I appreciate that you did everything that you could to provide assistance. I thank you for that.

I have one question and I'll have more questions as we go through the pages. On page 120 of your business plan in English and page 128 in Inuktitut, I think I can ask this question under H-4 as it's included on that page. One of the priorities for 2016-17 is to "Develop health professions umbrella legislation to

allow for the regulation of multiple health professions currently not regulated in Nunavut.” My question is under the status which states that “This initiative has been deferred.” I would just like to know why you identified it as a priority and then deferred it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is a question that I really appreciate because it is something as a regular member that I fought for as well. There are professions that we don't have full regulation under our legislation right now. There has been work that has been ongoing on it. Unfortunately it didn't make the legislative process for this government.

I can assure the member that it will be ready to go in the winter of 2018 when the new government comes into place. I would anticipate it would be quite a discussed piece of legislation because there are 12 different professions that are listed in it. It's a cumbersome piece of legislation, but it's a very important piece of legislation. I can assure the member that it will be “ready to rock.” Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're down to the group's second round of questioning. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I don't think I'm going to be too long. Well, I don't think so anyways, depending on the answers.

I do want to get into the finances a little bit. Since April 1, 1999 the Legislative

Assembly has approved \$373,852,302 in appropriation just for health. That's a big number. Looking at what is before us for the next fiscal year, I was thinking perhaps, you can talk a little bit about whether or not you feel that you are going to be seeking appropriation again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I talked a little bit about it with the questions from the member from Sanikiluaq yesterday, that we are bringing forward quite a large supplementary appropriation this year. I'll reiterate and elaborate a little bit more here today.

As the budget process unfolds, as I had mentioned yesterday, in some jurisdictions up to 40 percent of that jurisdiction's budget is directed to health. In Nunavut, as the chairman of the committee mentioned in his opening comments, we're at 23 percent. Now I don't like using percentages *per se* as a comparison, but it does give you a good indication on the limitations we have within our current fiscal framework.

Now that being said, there are also challenges from the government overall. We need continued schools. We have capital infrastructure deficits that some people estimate \$6 billion to \$7 billion across the territory. We have education as a high priority. Culture and Heritage and Environment, we have so many different competing departments for the same dollars. As the Minister of Finance just stated in his Budget Address yesterday, we're nearing \$2 billion.

When I look at us having a budget of 23 percent of the territory's budget when the national average is 38 percent, I think we're doing quite well for what we're doing. Unless there are some dramatic changes in the budgetary process, I don't anticipate not having Health come back for supplementary appropriation.

There are departments putting in business cases for projects every year. We put in business cases that get denied as well. Some of them may help save money in the long run. When you invest money now in certain projects, it looks at alleviating stresses like telehealth and the CAT scan that's provided at the QGH right now. It took a number of years before that got approved and then once it did, we're already seeing impacts.

Investments in different technologies also have limitations. Bandwidth is a challenge across the territory. When we're talking about digital imaging, we do have more and more X-rays that are doing digital imaging. I believe it's almost all of them now if I'm not mistaken. That is an investment in infrastructure, but it alleviates the need sometimes for medical travel because the doctors can get a clearer image immediately versus an X-ray being sent down. Oftentimes erring on the side of caution, a medevac is needed.

There are a number of different initiatives that we are undertaking and there are initiatives that we're going to continue to bring forward to the government as a whole and keep pushing some of our business cases down the road. With current fiscal parameters and structure the way that is right now, I

don't foresee any time soon that the Department of Health will not be appearing before this legislature without a supplementary appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's why I'm asking you this today again because I want to know what the process is that you go through as a department. On the other hand, you can see surpluses and yet on the other hand, you see somebody coming for appropriation. How can we fix that as the Legislative Assembly? What is it that we need to do to improve so that you do not have to come for appropriations all the time? What needs to happen? I'll ask my other question afterwards. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Unfortunately the answer is quite simple. Almost all of our overages are needs-based. We can estimate and project expenditures like medical travel, agency nurse costs, or physician contracting, but we don't know really until we're at a good chunk of the way through the year what the actual costs are. It's not a fault in the system *per se*.

Again, there may be some recognized and like I had mentioned yesterday with medical travel, we're budgeted for \$64 million. We haven't been at \$64 million in expenditures for a number of years. We did get an increase of \$5 million last year, but we didn't get an increase this year. As I had mentioned yesterday, territorial health investment funding is on a depreciating manner, so it's putting

more and more pressure on the GN to look at offsetting those costs.

When we're talking about controllable costs, like I had mentioned yesterday, we could have been coming in for a higher supplementary appropriation. We did have some small surpluses in some avenues or budget lines of our business that we used to offset what we could. It still left us short and the bulk of that, like I said, is from uncontrollable costs.

There's no easy answer. There's no simple explanation to change it other than looking at more historical, actual costs and maybe looking at budget processing a little bit closer to those. Again, you could have a year where your expenditures are less, then we're surplusing and that, and then we're getting our knuckles rapped for that too. There's no easy answer.

I do want to commend my colleagues across the cabinet that we do work together to try to allocate the funds the best way that we can determine for the betterment of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In just looking at the differences between the main estimates and actual expenditures over the years, they're pretty well around the same, give or take \$5 million or \$6 million. We have one of the things I guess that's different in Nunavut compared to other jurisdictions, of course, is our medical travel, but we also have NIHB. I'm wondering if you can give us a better understanding of what role NIHB has when it comes to the care... . If

somebody has to fly to Ottawa for medical services, does NIHB play any role in that at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NIHB plays a big role. I believe last year we got approximately \$35 million last year from NIHB and projecting \$37 million to possibly \$38 million this year. They don't cover the full costs of medical travel for Non-Insured Health Benefits; they cover a portion of it. It's almost like a deductible. I guess you can say that if you're talking from insurance words. They reimburse us for prescription medication, medical supplies and equipment, dental services, also the reimbursements for dental and eyewear, and eye exams outside of the territory.

Like I said, there's some reimbursement for part of the travel expenses. We work with them with our boarding homes. They cover most of the cost of our boarding homes. Sometimes the agreements that we sign with some of the facilities are a little bit higher than what we're reimbursed for, so it costs the government some money there.

The timing right now as a matter of fact it's up for renewal effective April 1. We have been in negotiations for some time with Health Canada to address some of the issues that I'm bringing forward today. We work very closely with Health Canada on establishing rates, boarding home rates for example. They play a big role in our being able to activate a boarding home.

The member from Rankin Inlet has brought up in the past and other members from the Kivalliq of having a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. Those are all the types of discussions that we have with NIHB that we look at opportunities to fund and offset some of our expenses. At the end of the day it does still cost us money. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does NIHB also cover the cost for long-term care in the south or that or is it just purely for medical? Okay. Thank you.

I want to go on just to something else now and it's to do with suicide prevention. Often we hear about families when this horrible tragedy happens. I often heard that families feel that there's no support for them after something like that has happened, for example, if a family member finds another family member and that picture and that thought stay in their head.

What are the plans for families to access more help right there? You can't always wait a week or something. Sometimes people need that help right after something like that has happened. I know often that family members band together and support each other and that's good, but sometimes you need more than that. What are the secretariat's plans to address the trauma that families go through immediately after something terrible like that has happened? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the toughest parts of my job is when I get those notices from a community that there has been a death in that manner. The health centre is always involved right away. There are counsellors available immediately. In some circumstances where the impact may be outside a small family unit is where we look at responding with a trauma response team. There are a number of different avenues for people to access counselling immediately and aftercare, not just face to face but also through telephone counselling as well. There are existing resources available to assist families and residents of a community that are dealing with that type of trauma. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday I was asking questions, but I wasn't done. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to ask another question.

In your 2017-18 business plan it states that you will do a study for 2017-18. The Department of Health will conduct an evaluation of capital infrastructure, departmental communications, and medical travel programs. With these evaluations that will occur, will the departmental staff be conducting them or will they be done by an entity outside the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to infrastructure, there is collaboration with Community and Government Services when we're doing an analysis of the existing infrastructure. We also realize that as those analyses are being done, they are also prioritized as well to make sure that those especially with health and safety conditions that need to be addressed immediately receive a higher priority.

With regard to medical travel, we do have people in-house. The review has already started on that and I'm hoping that the timeline can be even accelerated a little bit. To me, it's one of our biggest cost drivers that we work very closely with Health Canada to make sure that we're maximizing the effectiveness of our Medical Travel Policy.

Again, like I had mentioned earlier in an earlier response, we've gotten declining assistance for medical travel. We don't get a lot of assistance from outside, so we're covering the majority of the costs on this and it's a huge cost driver for the department. One of the things, when I got into this chair, is I wanted to make sure that that was an initial focus that we could look at immediately. If anything, we have accelerated that priority with the medical travel. We are continuing to go on with CGS on lifecycle analysis on our infrastructure.

I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand that response. However, I would like to ask an

additional question. You will "Evaluate Medical Travel programs to ensure effective service delivery." Does this review have a deadline as to when it's supposed to be done? Is it going to be done within the year or in two months? Does the Department of Health have a deadline for this review? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wouldn't say there's a deadline. I know we do want to make sure that it will be within the fiscal year for sure, but I want it sooner rather than later. It's not like we're waiting for a report to come up to examine efficiencies.

When I look at MEDITECH, the health records management system in itself, when I was visiting one of our health centres in a community, the medical travel person informed me that just that first week of rollout in that community saved five people's travel. We talk and we hear from our constituents, and I know I've gotten letters from some of you that are aware of constituents that have gone down to a medical appointment somewhere that didn't exist, and then they get turned around and flown home. For some people, especially those with mobility issues, that's not a minor inconvenience. Those are some of the things that we're looking at right away that have had an impact.

We look at other technologies that can be used to avoid medical travel, digital imaging as an example, like I have used earlier. It seems to be a bit of trend here. I keep blowing my own opportunity for some of the ministers' statements that

I'm looking at putting out. Not only with the Cambridge Bay seniors development, but there is respiratory assistance technology that some of you may have been made aware of.

During our tour of the renovated section of the hospital, the topic came up of equipment called CPAP. I can't remember right now off the top of my head what it stands for, but it's an assisted breathing apparatus that, when used with infants, avoids the necessity of having to intubate, which puts a tube down a newborn infant airway, which has all kinds of potential for harm, necessitates medevacs down, and extends the hospital stay. Already we have invested in that equipment here in Iqaluit and also on some of our life flights as well. Already that has had an impact in saving dollars and reducing medical travel costs.

It's not like we're waiting for a report to come out to act upon it. As things occur and as things mature, we're initiating them right away. The final report will probably have 90 percent of stuff that we're doing, maybe with some minor tweaks on anticipated future improvements. I don't anticipate waiting for a report to come out to make any more adjustments to our medical travel. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that response. The evaluation that you're doing is a great opportunity to look at infrastructure as well.

The elders facility in Baker Lake was held by the Department of Family Services, which is being transferred to the Department of Health. It is a very busy place. The officials from the Department of Family Services visited the facility and they were considering how they could make it more affordable to run. Since the responsibility is being taken over by the Department of Health, I want to make sure that some of your officials will go visit the Baker Lake elders facility to look at the operations and to see how it can be improved.

Some of the elders who I represent have explained to me that their rooms at the facility are too small. It would be a good opportunity for officials from the Department of Health to go to the Martha Talirug Centre in Baker Lake so that they can actually look at it and make considerations. It has proper staff. I encourage you to do so.

To move on to a different topic, you have staff in the communities. In Baker Lake there is a worker that deals with babies and young people. Our dialects are different. In the Baffin region, what do they call it? I'm talking about young boys or young kids. I'm asking about the staff. Some of them are not in indeterminate positions and have been in casual positions for two years now. They don't really have the job permanently, but they work there. Is that the situation there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickers.

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not familiar with the exact position that the member is talking about, but there could be a number of different reasons why somebody would

be on a casual basis for extended periods of time.

Like I had mentioned yesterday in one of my responses, we have been very successful using restricted competitions to get people into indeterminate positions. One of the challenges we have and when we're dealing with, as one of the members asked yesterday, how we budget, do we budget for all of our positions? Yes, we do. Some of those monies are used in identified needs in communities where we provide casual positions that may be technically unfunded that we fund from within to deal with an identified need.

I would have to look at that specific position and maybe have a conversation with the member after on the specifics of that one, but in general there are ways that people do stay in casual positions for extended periods of time. I can assure everyone here and everyone watching that that was an immediate focus of mine. I see my deputy minister nodding her head and she can assure everyone here that that was one of my first requests of the department, to deal with long-term casual staff and wherever possible to make sure that they were given an opportunity to enter into indeterminate employment with the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier I asked a question and maybe I'll translate it myself here.

Child and youth outreach workers within the communities... I have been made aware that the employee in Baker Lake

has now been in that casual position for two years. At the same time similarly, positions in other communities have been casuals even longer. Listening to your response, I take it that the department will take a look at these casual positions. Will the department make a decision on having them become full-time employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I will just preface my response that it will depend upon whether those are funded positions or not. That being said, it is the intention going forward to make sure that people that have been in long-term casual positions, whether it be through restricted competitions or open competitions or through direct appointments, we are picking them off; we're making progress.

If the Chair will allow, I would like to go back to the member's comment from before on having health staff visit the facility in Baker Lake. I just wanted to make sure the member was aware that we're a step ahead of him. We've had staff in there already from our transition team taking a look at the facility and making sure that the residents there are assessed to the level of care that they need. Thanks for the comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very promising for the Martha Talirug Centre, which has been long-standing and servicing the needs of the elders of Baker Lake and even some

elders from nearby communities now. It's very promising to hear that health officials are taking keen insight into that particular centre.

Moving on, in your draft business plan one of the things that your department is looking at working on is model of care redesign. When we look at model of care covers and how this new model will improve service delivery for staff of health, as we all know, staff from health departments are crucial, but at the same time when we look at health, there are clients and families. As the department, you're looking at a redesigned model of care. Can you elaborate a little bit more on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can elaborate a little bit. I know I touched on it a little bit yesterday and I thank the member for asking the question. It gives me a chance to get a little bit more specific.

When we're dealing with a territory as vast as Nunavut, providing consistent care across all the communities is a challenge. When we're looking at a formal model of care design, we want to make sure that people expect and receive the same level of care from one community to the next, from one region to the next, dealing with all the challenges that we do have in providing health care with the demographics, from the fiscal constraints, as I have alluded to.

One of the things that were identified is that there is a need to modernize the current model of care. That's why we went ahead to look at redesigning it. We

want to make sure that people are getting the right care at the right place at the right time from the right person. There are a number of factors that go into that.

I'm not clinician, but I do happen to have one sitting beside me so. Maybe if the Chair will indulge me and allow my deputy minister to elaborate a little bit more maybe from a clinical side of things on what specifics we're looking at within the redesign of the model of care, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Stockley.

Ms. Stockley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we want to look at with regard to the model of care is what our care ratio is. That hasn't been looked at for a very long time in terms of number of nurses versus number of people in the community. The communities have grown a lot over the last number of years.

Other questions that get raised when we look at a model of care are how could we use laypeople and how could we use people from the communities and train them in different ways to be able to provide services in the communities much the same way as we did with the children's oral health coordinators. We had people who were interested from the community who came in and received training and now are performing a valuable service in their community.

Another thing that we have in mind to look is, is there a way to look at other health professionals such as licensed practical nurses, for example. That's a model that has been used in many other areas. We're looking at if and how such

a model could be used. We're just in the beginning phase. We have been to a number of communities or a consultant has been to a number of communities to talk with health staff. Our first cut is to talk to the health staff and talk to the people who are working in the health centres to get their feedback and ideas.

We just had our first meeting with NTI earlier this week. We're really just getting going. We will be coming out to the communities and asking for feedback and asking communities what is working well in your community and what is not working so well to really design a model of care based on evidence, best practices, and people working to the full scope of their abilities, licences, and training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at this redesigning of model of care, this would be my last question on this particular H-4 page here. I brought this up on my first year as an MLA for Baker Lake, even on my second year, third year, and today I ask this. When you're looking at redesigning your model of care, are you going to take into serious consideration of early detection of cancer screening? Is that going to be one of the highlights on your redesign? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will be a component of it, but overall when we look at early detection, especially with cancer, again that's one of the priorities that I talked to my deputy minister about when I took

on this portfolio. I really wanted to see some movement on screening.

There are a number of different initiatives specifically with cancer care that we're exploring. I'm not going to get into it at this moment. I want to see how they progress as we move forward. I do want to assure members that cancer screening is a key component moving forward to making sure that people are getting care early so that it doesn't become as serious of an issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on the list, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank the minister and his officials for responding to a question I brought up yesterday regarding the number of Inuit nurses we have employed. It's something that we would like to give more support to because we don't have enough Inuit working in the department's offices.

I would like to move on to another subject regarding the Igloolik incident. I would first like to thank the Member for Aggu for asking the family of the man who was shot by the RCMP. He was mentally challenged and he was shot by the RCMP. His name was Felix. He's not with us anymore and he does need a representative.

I would like to look further into the coroner's inquest. There are over 20 recommendations and some of them are directed to the Department of Health. First of all, one of the recommendations indicates that our government should give workshops to the RCMP and hold

meetings in the communities. Will that be implemented by the Department of Health? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, I have a tickle in my throat. If the Chair would indulge me, I'll ask my deputy minister to respond to that.

Chairman: Ms. Stockley.

Ms. Stockley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have received the coroner's report and have been in discussion with the coroner to make sure we understand the recommendations and the reasoning behind it.

With regard to training our frontline staff, we want to make sure that our frontline staff are trained not only in recognizing issues with mental health and addictions, how to treat people, and to understand what's going on with people with mental health and addictions, but to also be grounded in cultural considerations so that they understand the context of the behaviours and the illness that they're dealing with.

I hope that answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will continue to deal with mental health in the future. We have to provide more support to people with mental health challenges and look for different options.

I'm going to keep asking questions on the recommendations that were made for the Department of Health. The fifth recommendation states that if anyone is shot by the RCMP or if anyone has lost a family member, this individual and the family will have to be counselled. Will the Department of Health make plans to implement this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for earlier.

With regard to access for the family and within the community, during the inquest itself in Igloolik, like I had mentioned earlier, one of the successful methods that we took was having members of our mobile trauma response team in the community to provide counselling services during and after the inquest itself. Those services are continuously available again at request of different levels.

The staff in the communities themselves are becoming more aware. They are trained in trauma so that the services can be provided. Again, we want to make it more stable and equitable across the territory so that the people on the frontline in the community can determine immediate and aftercare needs and have resources available for them to supplement their counselling on an as-needed basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 10 states that more support and better training should be provided to

individuals who have a family member with mental challenges. How will more support and training be provided for those individuals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My initial response is yes. That being said, there are challenges that are within the system, even on diagnosis and recognition of different mental illnesses; fetal alcohol syndrome and autism. There are challenges in identifying some of the cases, the severity there, and on what level of interventions need to be made.

One thing that I do know and that I am aware of is I do receive correspondence sometimes from people requesting assistance and I know the department reacts immediately if somebody brings forward a concern that they need assistance dealing with a family member or child. I do know that the department responds very quickly to make sure that additional services are provided and identify any training that may be needed to help the family deal with their loved one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 11 states that this government open an institution in the High Arctic that mentally challenged individuals can go to. Will plans be drawn up for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Could I ask the member to repeat that question, please.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): This is recommendation 11. The government is urged to make plans to open a health centre for mentally challenged individuals in the High Arctic to live in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I appreciate recommendations that come from inquests such as this, it's like similar ones where more physicians need to be in every community.

Sometimes it's a longer strategy to be able to deal with actioning specifically a recommendation like that of actually developing infrastructure in the High Arctic specific to mental health. Unfortunately at this time, as we have talked numerous times around the table, there are continuing challenges. We do have in our planning stage a mental health facility in the Kivalliq. It's something that we will continue to explore to roll out so that all regions within the territory, hopefully in my lifetime, can have more localized access to mental health.

I know it is a focus of Health Canada right now to deal with mental health, and I have had discussions with Minister Philpott on addressing some of the infrastructure shortfalls that we have specifically for that context. It's something I'll continue to have discussions with my colleagues around the cabinet table as well as at the federal

level to enhancing our capital plan in mental health facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also recommendation No. 16 is that they ask the government to identify frontline workers who deal with mental health issues and work with the RCMP on identifying individuals in need of more help. How will this be implemented by the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through our Quality of Life, we're looking at enhancing our Mental Health First Aid courses. We have people that are taking training to be trainers. We want to make sure that frontline mental health workers or frontline workers in our community health centres have access to support so that they know what services are available to them to assisting residents.

I just want to highlight that when we get recommendations such as this, it is something that we are continuously analyzing to see how we could... I'm just trying to think of the right word, Mr. Chairman. With the intent of the recommendation to make sure that we're doing appropriate measures so that we can help address the recommendations that we are able to, like the previous one, with actual infrastructure, it is more of a challenge. When it comes to training staff, it is something that we are continuously addressing on how to make sure that the staff at all levels are given the resources available to do their jobs

and then some where we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At this day and age, having a mental illness should not be a life sentence.

I encourage the department to follow through with these recommendations as we will continue to encounter these issues. I want to ensure and hope that the department will take these recommendations seriously and follow through with these recommendations. It's not just Health. We will turn to Justice from here to follow up on these matters.

At this time I will conclude my questions on this one and thank the minister and Member for Aggu. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's passion about this topic.

I just want to again highlight that a substantial part of the upcoming supplementary appropriation is to do with over-expenditures in mental health. I think, in a lot of ways, the department has been... I don't want to use the word "too good of a job," but we're definitely spending more money than we have anticipated and budgeted for, which means that we're rolling out services as people are more and more recognizing the need to request assistance and family members are getting better at recognizing mental health issues.

Going forward, we can continue to enhance the services that we're providing with regard to mental health. We have a number of different avenues available to us, to our residents to deal with mental health initiatives and issues. I want to really emphasize to all members and people that are paying attention, if you know someone that needs assistance or just someone to talk to, there are counselling services available. There are professional people that they can talk to.

I just wanted to thank the people that we do have spread across the territory that are working every day in this field and we are seeing more and more people address the need, to seek out these types of services. I applaud the member's passion behind this topic because I share it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, Minister Hickes and your officials. In the business plan for the Department of Health on page 134, Inuit Employment Plan, it states here on September 30, 2016 total vacant positions is 545 in all of Nunavut. Can he state if time is taken out if the positions are not filled for a certain length of time? What's the time limit for unfilled positions? Can the minister elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a difficult question to answer. There are certain positions that are deemed like a critical need. A lot of these positions are filled with casuals or

potentially with contract workers, so the duties are being done. I wouldn't say that we have a deadline on any position, but our goal as a department is to make sure that the positions that are critically needed have somebody in them.

We do work with the Department of Finance through their HR division to make sure that as positions are ready for competition, they get into the stage of getting filled. At the same time, again, we do have continuous challenges across the territory like all departments. Staff housing is a big one.

As of right now, on February 8, we've got 422 positions that are considered vacant. We have 62 of those positions that are submitted to Job Evaluation. We have 172 of those positions within the staffing process. We have 12 under review by Health HR, which is just prior to submission to Job Evaluation. We have 84 positions that are currently being reviewed as a result of the recent health reorganization. We have relief employees and casual employees. Our vacancy rate right now translates to about 38 percent.

I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He responded to part of my question. He stated that even though there are vacancies, they're filled by casual or contract workers. They should be able to fill those positions, for example, by offering salaries at the top administrative level.

If we look at September 30... I know the numbers will keep changing, but I would think it makes sense to put more effort into filling these positions. That way, for instance, more Nunavummiut can earn more when they start working that will elevate their lives. They can start from the lower positions and then start filling the higher positions based on the wishes of the employees. That's just a comment.

I would like to ask a different question. This is about improving the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. If I'm not mistaken, once a person goes to the hospital or health centre, some people with physical disabilities are required to use canes or wheelchairs by their nurse. I think that's included in there. How can this type of service be improved? I have heard from some people that maybe they're lacking such equipment in health centres. Can he elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. NIHB does pick up the cost for medical necessity equipment like wheelchairs and canes and things like that. There are continual discussions with NIHB from our department and as well as with Health Canada on our NIHB.

If the member has a particular instance in mind, I would totally be open to having a talk with him to remedy this situation.

Again, I defer a lot of issues that we see and that you guys see from your constituents to our patient relations

office. If there is ever a time where maybe it may not be acted upon or the equipment seems to be stalled out somewhere, please let us know. One of the fastest ways to resolve an issue is to contact the patient relations office so that they can get involved with Health Canada staff to make sure that any issues are expedited. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for being more open. He said that they are trying to renegotiate an agreement for the federal program. Do you expect any increase in funding through those negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As negotiations are ongoing, I wouldn't be able to answer. I hope so. I would anticipate that Health Canada officials are very aware through numerous discussions with them on the challenges that we face. There are continual negotiations and we're looking at having these negotiations completed quite soon, as the date is looming. They're at a minimum. Other than just as-needed correspondence, there are formal quarterly meetings that we meet with NIHB officials. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. Moving on to another topic, this is just for clarification. In your business plan on page 123 it indicates that Kamatsiaqtut will be provided \$75,000. In the main

estimates on page H-7 it says \$50,000. Is it going to be \$75,000 or \$50,000? Which one is it going to be or will it be both of them for the Kamatsiaqtut Help Line? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is \$25,000 being funded from our grants and contributions budget, so it's increased funding available to them. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. Now that is clear. I also want to ask about suicide prevention. Upigivagitsi was mentioned, but I'm very proud of the work because it's part of learning. We're trying to understand why there are suicides occurring. I'm very respectful of the Department of Health for dealing with this issue and also providing funding.

I'm sure this will be directed at finding solutions, for example, when the Internet is used for information. You may have heard that people who are experiencing a personal crisis are increasingly using the Internet or cellphones to ask for advice. Is there an online helpdesk for these troubled individuals to go to? Is there some alternative crisis avenue that you are working on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's always a possibility. The Quality of Life Secretariat is just getting their staffing ramped up and finalizing the grants and contributions.

When you say that you're thankful of the work that I'm doing and that we're doing as legislators, I'm thankful for the work that the Quality of Life Secretariat is doing. They're building a division from scratch with some general parameters and some funding that this legislature has approved to assist in the creation of it.

It's a fluid operation and there are going to be a number of different processes that are going to be examined. Just an example with the helpline, we have been talking about adding a texting component. Some people have shown interest in that as a medium of communication. We're always open to different practices and processes to keep communication lines open for people or for training opportunities or just to assist people in however that we can as a group, but we want to make sure that we're supporting initiatives that are going to have an impact at the community level.

I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On numerous occasions we hear that troubled individuals, out of ignorance or having heard something, tend to believe suicide is their only option. For example, when someone tells them, "Go ahead and put yourself out of misery," that is not acceptable and a bad mistake. It needs to be taken more seriously.

We have heard from outside of Nunavut that they have no tolerance and that they're trying to make legislation that if

an individual tells another person to go commit suicide, they are liable to be charged since it would be deemed to be committing murder. Is your department going to be looking into this to see if it could be done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member brings up this issue at a very relevant time. Just yesterday we were celebrating Pink Shirt Day, which deals specifically with bullying and things of that nature. Cyberbullying is a big component of it that the Department of Education works with their DEAs and with the schools across the territory to help address. Again, it's another medium used in a negative way. We want to make sure that we're working with groups and educating people on how harmful that type of behaviour is and find ways to hold those people accountable.

I'm sure the Department of Justice is continuously looking at different examples that happen in other jurisdictions on cyberbullying. Recently at one of the conferences we had here, we had Amanda Todd's mother, Carol Todd, here, who I spoke with personally at great length and talked about the impact of bullying over the Internet and cyberbullying. It does happen and we all know it happens. That's where communities, parents, and peers make sure that people that are carrying on those types of activities get reported so that it can be muted, for one, and lessons can be learned from some of those kids on the real impact and implications of their actions.

There are a number of different avenues that are being looked at from Education, through Justice, through Quality of Life, through Health. There are a number of different avenues that we're looking at making sure that accountability is there on actions like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasic.

Mr. Joanasic (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll conclude now by saying to the minister that I am proud of you and I'm also proud of those that support you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. We're on Health. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$41,534,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page H-5. Public Health. Total Operations. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we're moving on to a different topic, in looking at the business plan, it mentions smoking cessation plans and the status of that work. It's in the business plan on page 126, the middle bullet. I first want to ask about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member knows, smoking rates in Nunavut are incredibly high, approximately four times higher than the national average.

Right now the Department of Health is piloting a cessation program which focuses on youth and young adults, especially pregnant women. In 10 communities right now there's a training program for health care providers, clinical system enhancements, and quit line modifications. Basically what that means is that we're looking at making sure that at different levels within the health care system people are aware of a smoking cessation program so that they can intervene.

We're providing smoking cessation products through our health centres to people that request them. A lot of these activities are selected by community representatives, sewing groups, or support smoking cessation groups; on-the-land programs. We've got computer coding clubs. We have also developed a Nunavut-specific tobacco cessation training program for nurses, physicians, midwives, public health staff, community prenatal nutrition, program facilitators, CHRs (community health reps), and also community development workers.

With this pilot program that we're in right now in this fiscal year, we're in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Baker Lake, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Pangnirtung, and Iqaluit.

I hope that gives a touch of what we're doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm encouraged by the smoke-free zone by the hospital. That's an encouraging sign.

We've got to make it as inconvenient as possible for those that want to have a puff. I'm encouraged by that movement.

As we all know, smokers start young and early. They start from there and they have a hard time quitting. Can we move this movement towards schools and make them smoke-free zones? That's my follow-up question to that.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the suggestion. One of the things that I have even noticed myself is schools are supposed to be a 15-metre zone and I often see people smoking close to the doorways, especially at the high school here near the back doors. It's something I think we need to make sure that we're enforcing.

As far as making it a smoke-free zone, that's definitely something I'll have consultations with my officials and with the Minister of Education to see how fast something like that could be achieved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I took up smoking as an adult. I didn't start early. What made me think twice were those graphic ads. I then started looking at what's in these things, all the toxins that are in them and said, "What am I doing?"

I think we have to learn from other jurisdictions. I have even looked at Australia and they have the lowest

smoking rates in the world. They used to have it bad before, but they did a very coordinated effort. I have even stolen their ads and put them in my Facebook to share with whoever wants to look at them. They're quite graphic and they make you think twice.

Can they steal from other jurisdictions? We have to do something and prevent this in our own territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

An. Hon. Member: That's horrible.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I applaud the member for taking those personal initiatives through social media to highlight the dangers of smoking.

I recall just recently as the Minister of Health, I get these little catalogues of different educational or promotional items and there's a whole section on stop smoking. Some of the displays that they use in there, you're talking graphics on a cigarette package. If that doesn't make you want to quit, I don't know what would.

One of the things that we are doing is specific to Nunavut youth and we're running as an after school drop-in program during the fall and winter months and it ends with a two-day on-the-land component next month actually. We've got 9 communities with 16 leaders that are facilitating and helping to develop youth on making healthier choices and encouraging substance-free activities. They bring in role model guest

speakers, using peer pressure to combat some of these unhealthy choices.

Like I had mentioned, nine communities were organizing wellness, empowerment, and intervention and those include Cambridge Bay, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Arctic Bay, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, and Sanikiluaq. I really suggest to members that when they go home from those communities to actively encourage youth to participate in programs such as that so that they can see from their own peers that you don't have to take advantage of substances to be cool, I guess if you want to use that term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned earlier, smoking starts early and they start young. Can the department work with Education to do classroom promotions on reducing the rates of smoking in our territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Health and Education are collaborating right now on a number of different initiatives at the request of Nunavut educators.

Health has updated the educational youth tobacco video and teachers' resource guide as part of the Tobacco Has No Place Here campaign.

Also a lot of members have probably seen the recent commercial that has come out highlighting giving your kid

healthy options and not helping contribute by providing tobacco and other substances to their children.

We are also collaborating with the Department of Education on a series of books and teacher guides containing tobacco prevention information.

We are working with the Department of [Education] and we will continue to explore any and all avenues that we feel that together we can have an impact on deterring people from smoking or other substances. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Before I go on to the next name on the list, we will give the minister a bit of a break and take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 18:09 and resumed at 18:24

Chairman: Welcome back. I call the committee meeting to order. We're on Public Health. The next name on the list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of your priorities for 2017-18 listed in your 2017-2020 draft business plan is to develop a colorectal cancer screening program. Is this initiative part of a broader cancer screening program to screen and diagnose other forms of cancer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a nutshell, yes, it is part of a broader cancer screening program.

One of the concerns that I had when I got into this chair is that we seem to have a big backlog for colorectal screening. One of the things that we're looking at doing, and we're working with the executive director of Qikiqtani General Hospital, is opening up the second operating room. We have a second surgeon here now so that we can take at doing colorectal examinations, both in the operating room and out of the operating room, depending upon the need.

It's a specific initiative, but overall we're looking at improving cancer screening at all different levels. One of the determining factors of colorectal cancer is that rates are substantially higher than the national average in Nunavut. It is one of our easily identifiable focuses. It is one of the cancers that if you catch it early enough, it is totally treatable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Public Health. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on that as well. The new (interpretation ends) *Public Health Act* (interpretation) was implemented in 2016. As it is being implemented, can you explain what new things are going to come out of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of initiatives not just specifically through the Department of Health but through the chief medical office as well.

With regard to specific initiatives, I just don't have that level of detail with me here right now. As the Act was just enacted, we're taking a look at different opportunities and different strategies on how to address cancer screening. Overarching all of that is that we have identified the importance of identifying cancer and getting people into treatment sooner in the disease's progress than later.

Unfortunately, with the remoteness and challenging aspect of delivering health care from across such a diverse territory, we're working with some of the regulations to start with. Initially what I would like to say publicly is that we recognize the need for increased cancer screening. We're developing different strategies to help address that, again, working from within the Department of Health itself but also with the chief medical officer to coordinate strategies so that we can help educate people and help make sure that staff are aware when people come in showing any type of symptoms or to help alleviate any concerns.

When I go back to the colorectal screening, the wait-list, in my opinion and in the opinion of other officials in my department is that it's too long. We're taking some initial steps to deal with that. It is taking up a bit of resources to triage the waiting list to make sure that the people who are in the most urgent need to be seen get seen first. We don't want to let that momentum drop. We want to make sure that we're dealing with the wait-list and then from thereon we can continue to other focused endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your business plan indicates that your department has worked with Health Canada on a new Northern Wellness Agreement. Can you describe what kinds of programs or initiatives will be funded through this agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that question. Negotiations have been ongoing for some time with Health Canada. As recently as I think it was last week there were some further meetings finalizing the memorandum of understanding on the Northern Wellness Agreement.

Just to highlight some of the funding aspects of it, it is through the First Nations and Inuit Health that we get the bulk of the funds. We work very closely with Health Canada to make sure basically that the continued support that we receive for the wellness programming so that we have sustainable and steady capacity.

Some of things that get specifically funded through healthy children, families and communities are healthy living and oral health. There are also some mental health and addictions dollars. That's where in the past we've had money for drug strategies and some of our tobacco strategies in the past. Chronic disease and injury prevention, we get money in there. Our diabetes strategy comes out of those dollars. Primary care, when we're dealing with home and community care, we get funds

out of there. Program management and health service integration, we've had funds in the past.

The agreement that we're on right now expires March 31, so we're just finalizing the new agreement. I can't say with certainty what type of programs are going to be on there, but basically we're looking at making sure that we're focusing on wellness programming and different education campaigns. I was speaking with the member from Iqaluit-Sinaa on some of the tobacco reduction campaigns.

We held regional training for community representatives last fall where we want to make sure that communities are renewing their wellness plans. I was able to meet personally with two of the three regions with the community wellness people that were here, the coordinators in the Kivalliq as well as here in the Qikiqtaaluk. Basically the message that I have said there is the same message I have been saying here for the last day and a half. We need the communities to let us know what programming they want to see so that we can target our investments and our program dollars to those initiatives.

We don't want to be the big brother telling the communities what to do. We want the communities to tell us what they need through their community wellness plan. That helps us with our negotiations with Health Canada to make sure that we get adequate funding so that the communities can put forward proposals and submissions, which we already have some waiting on the sides.

As soon as that agreement gets signed, we've got proposals that are ready to be

initiated. It's a very important funding component that we have to be able to promote healthy living in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can ask a question on H-7 about grants and contributions, your main estimates include \$250,000 to be allocated to Health Committees of Council. I don't really understand that. What does it mean? What kinds of community-based activities are supported with this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$250,000 basically is \$10,000 per community. There have been sewing clubs initiated with it. There have been artistic... . There have been youth groups. Again, they're community-led initiatives that we want to see out of that. There has been some on-the-land programming. There are a number of different initiatives driven by the community. That's some of the core funding that we provide for them to allow them to do that.

The Northern Wellness Agreement also has monies available that we can initiate some of those programs. Some of these programs have implications on suicide prevention. Again, there are Quality of Life grants and contributions that those wellness committees can access further funds.

This is just a basic funding amount that we have allocated to each community to help them provide services to the

community, which we can enhance on a proposal-based basis. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your draft 2017-2020 business plan also indicates that your department is finalizing the new Maternal and Child Health Strategy. I'm sorry I don't know what maternal is in Inuktitut. It's the (interpretation ends) Maternal and Child Health Strategy. (interpretation) Can you describe some of the programs and initiatives you expect to come out of this strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're dealing with maternal health, as I'm sure we're all aware, there are a number of initiatives that we want to make sure that the women that are having babies are having healthy babies and are living a healthy lifestyle. We want to make sure that Inuit societal values are included. Again, a lot of that falls under the Northern Wellness Agreement.

We also want to make sure that we're having responses and education on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and sudden infant death syndrome. We want to make sure that parents are learning parenting skills and not just the physical health but the mental health of the parents as well. We have discussed it within different departments, NTI, and regional Inuit organizations. We correspond with Family Services.

One of the things that I brought in last session was the baby beds just to help

promote healthy sleeping habits for parents with infants. One of the most common mortality causes is sudden infant death syndrome, which is horrible. With the implementation of that, we've had over a hundred of those beds delivered as of December 2016.

There are a number of initiatives specific to the mental and physical health of the mother and the baby and other family members that are involved in the raising of those children. I can go on and on now on this topic because there are so many different partners and so many different initiatives. Not just Health but we've got Family Services, we've got different health research groups, the *Inunnguiniq* parenting program, and I could go on and on for what we're getting out of this.

It's again going back to a healthy community. We want to make sure that mothers are aware of the dangers of drinking, smoking, and how to take care of their baby after the baby is born; promote breastfeeding programs. We want to make sure that we're doing whatever we can with regard to prenatal nutrition and postnatal nutrition. We work very closely with a lot of different partners out of this funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question and in the English version it's on page 127, one of the top bullets. "Evaluate," I'm not exactly sure what it is or maybe I'll just ask it in English because I don't even understand it in English.

(interpretation ends) “Evaluate the implementation of the Sexual Health Framework for Action.” (interpretation) What does that mean? Is it some kind of a review or are you looking at setting up a new framework for action? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That’s a very good question. In 2012 there was a syphilis outbreak declared in Nunavut and it’s still ongoing almost five years later. When it comes to sexual health and education, it’s a very important component not just for our youth; for all people through the spectrum of their life. We distribute safe sex supplies; condoms, condom dispensers. We produce resources on sexual consent to make sure that people are in healthy relationships. That’s also a component to it.

We want to make sure that there is in-person sexual health education and training to community health representatives in all three regions. Right now we’re in year 4 of a five-year implementation schedule. When it says “implementation,” it was a five-year initial plan. Basically the entire framework is focused on promoting sexual health and preventing disease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If my question is out of line or if it’s inappropriate to ask that particular question to the Minister of Health, please let me know.

I believe you have some kind of program about sexual health awareness in the

schools, family planning, and so on. If I’m not mistaken, I believe there’s some type of a program that is geared for the schools.

On more than one occasion I have been told and I have seen 12-, 13-, or 14-year-old girls pregnant. In the Criminal Code of Canada the age of consent is 16 years, I think, and I’m not a legal advisor or anything, but that’s what I think it is.

I know this is more for the Minister of Education, but you have a close working relationship. Do you also include the Criminal Code or criminal activities, the age of consent and everything else that is involved in the Sexual Health Framework for Action, including girls becoming pregnant before the legal age? I know that the minister might not be able to answer that question if he doesn’t really deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a relevant question and I appreciate the member asking. When it comes to content or consent... I don’t want to get that personal. It depends on the age of the partner for one, if you’re within a certain age parameter. Again, I’m not a lawyer. I’m sure the Minister of Justice would be able to give more accurate details, but it does depend on the age of the partner.

We do promote and provide information with regard to sexual consent to all communities. It gives me an opportunity to highlight a website address that we work with. It is www.irespectmyself.ca. I encourage all people, parents, grandparents, and children to take a look

at that website. It has specific Nunavut context and we want to make sure that people understand what their rights are.

It has been brought up in the past of child abuse and Family Services deals with issues like that. Health sometimes is the identifier of it when people go to a health centre. We want to make sure that people understand not only their rights but their children's rights so that people are aware that they do have the right to say no, that they do have the right to have people respect themselves and respect each other. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand, but I would like to get further clarity. What kind of working relationship do you have with the Department of Education on the sexual health curriculum and so on, or is this under the portfolio of the Department of Education? Is the curriculum from the school itself? If it's health-specific, is it your department and the Department of Education that collaborate deliver those types of programs? I hope I was understandable. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Absolutely, Mr. Chairman. Again I appreciate the member for allowing this topic to gain some more momentum because I think it's a very important one.

With regard specifically to the relationship that we have with the Department of Education, one of the key components to it is through our Quality

of Life Cabinet Committee. We do meet regularly and as recently as our last discussion, we have talked about some shared policies and some shared examples. Through my associate deputy minister's research, we have identified programs that are used in other jurisdictions that we feel can be used very relevantly here in Nunavut, probably as is but maybe with some minor tweaking.

I have attended conferences where I know in Northern Quebec they have a safe touch course. It is brought into the schools and it is something that we have talked to the Department of Education about initiating. Like you had mentioned earlier, 12 and 13 years old, but people younger than that are often victims of molestation and unsafe environments. We want to make sure that we're reaching our youth at an appropriate age for the terminology and for the content of the material.

We work very closely with the Department of Education as well as Family Services and other members on the Quality of Life Cabinet Committee to coordinate our approaches to a lot of these topics and maximize the efficiencies of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mostly wanted to focus on that and I am sure that the information has to get out possibly from your department or the Department of Justice or the Department of Education on when a female is deemed to have given consent.

Within the Criminal Code of Canada, I don't think a child is said to have given consent if he or she is under 14. Even though that is the case, we see children around that age who are pregnant, who very likely don't know what their rights are or what dangers they face. Under the law, it's possible that few realize what dangers they face and that should be considered. This could possibly be communicated through schools or wellness programs. I think we have to get that sort of information out there because we want to take proper care of our youth and make sure they know what inappropriate touching is and how it relates to the law. It's just a suggestion and it's not really a question.

From here I have another question. When a law is enacted in Canada, it applies to all of Canada, including Nunavut. Right now Canada is preparing for the legalization of cannabis. When the Liberals got elected, they talked about the legalization of cannabis and once that's adopted, we're automatically under it. What kind of plans does Nunavut have on that? Of course it's going to have potential impacts if cannabis is legalized. What plans have you prepared since we will be affected? Do you already have plans to be put in place or are you having discussions on this issue? Is there a date on when cannabis will be legalized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I appreciate the member for bringing up this issue. It's an important one as well. We've had special briefings on this topic at federal-provincial-territorial Health ministers'

meetings. We have talked about it internally with the departments of Justice, Finance, and Family Services.

We're working together to make sure that when... I say "when" because it sounds like it was a campaign promise, so it sounds like it will be when. I have also been assured that it's going to be phased in so that it's not going to be like next week. Once the legislation passes, it's not going to be immediately effective. We have been assured that there is going to be some time.

Those are the challenges. We need to make sure we're correlating our responses and policies with the departments that I mentioned for one. Even when you look at alcohol, alcohol is legal in this country, yet we've got communities that it's illegal to have and to possess alcohol. What type of independence do we have is something we're exploring with Justice to see if we have to make it legal in all of our communities.

I know from a health standpoint, there are people that have medicinal marijuana permits by prescription from a doctor. I know somebody down south, an elderly person that I have known all my life has never touched the stuff in her life, has recently got a prescription to try to stimulate some of the health benefits of it.

There are continual challenges and continual discussions going on. It is on our radar and we've had discussions, again, with my federal counterpart and Health Canada officials. I'm sure Justice has had numerous discussions with their counterparts across the country and federally.

I know that's not the specific answer the member is looking for because it's still in the evolution process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page H-5. Public Health. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recognizing the clock and we have been trying to keep on time, I now move to report progress.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table.

Speaker: Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 34 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Alexander Sammurtok. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for February 24:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 32
 - Bill 33

- Bill 35
19. Second Reading of Bills
 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 34
 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
 22. Third Reading of Bills
 23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Friday, February 24, at 9:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:00*

