



**Nunavut Canada**

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Official Report

**DAY 5**

**Tuesday, May 29, 2018**

**Pages 175 – 237**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Tununiq)

**Hon. David Akeegok**  
(Quttiktuq)

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

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

*Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention*

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Labour*

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

**Hon. David Joanasié**  
(South Baffin)

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

**Joelie Kaernek**  
(Amittuq)

**Mila Kamingoak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

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(Rankin Inlet South)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**John Main**  
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(Baker Lake)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

**Patterk Netser**  
(Aivilik)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment*

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

**Cathy Towtongie**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday, May 29, 2018**

**Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:34*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Joe Enook)  
(interpretation): Ms. Towtongie, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and members, good afternoon. Nunavummiut, welcome, especially our elders throughout Nunavut. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. I say “good day” to my spouse. I hope you enjoy your day.

Let’s now proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers’ Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Quassa.

**Item 2: Ministers’ Statements**

**Minister’s Statement 014 – 5(2):**  
**Junior Canadian Rangers and**  
**Canadian Rangers**

**Hon. Paul Quassa:** Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I rise today to tell my fellow members about Nunavut’s Junior Canadian Ranger programs and Nunavut’s Canadian Rangers.

In early July, Taloyoak will be hosting a Junior Canadian Ranger summer camp with 65 youth participating from the Kitikmeot region at Netsilik Lake for five days. They will learn important life, land and ranger skills. Also, Cape Dorset youth will travel to Rankin Inlet to participate in a Junior Canadian Ranger summer camp during the same time. On May 12 I was pleased to celebrate the start of the Igloolik Junior Canadian Ranger Patrol program.

Canadian Rangers support Junior Canadian Ranger programs and are the official arctic military presence that supports Canadian sovereignty. As such, this summer the Taloyoak Canadian Ranger Patrol will be assisting the Canadian Armed Forces’ Joint Task Force North’s Operation Nunakput. They will set up observation points along the Northwest Passage to collect information on vessels as they pass through. Other Canadian Ranger patrols participating in Nunakput include Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, and Pond Inlet. In addition, this summer two Canadian Rangers of Grise Fiord will support the Joint Task Force North Operation NEVUS on Baffin Island. Operation NEVUS is the maintenance of communications between Eureka and Alert. The Canadian Rangers are also integral to search and rescue missions.

Mr. Speaker, in Igloolik on May 12, I presented the Commander’s Pennant to Sergeant Moses Iqqaqsaq. He has demonstrated expert knowledge of the

land and has shown great ability to work well with others on search and rescue missions.

Members, please join me in congratulating the incredible Canadian Rangers and Junior Canadian Rangers of Nunavut for their service and commitment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 015 – 5(2):  
Mould Remediation in Public  
Housing**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, people of Rankin Inlet and my fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide an update to the Legislative Assembly with respect to progress towards remediating mould in public housing units and improving prevention efforts.

Mr. Speaker, of 35 units identified during 2017 inspections as needing urgent intervention, professional remediation has been carried out in 32 units. That includes homes in Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Sanikiluaq, and Kugaaruk. Remediation on the remaining three units will be completed by September 2018.

Contracts for professional mould mediation in 31 more units are being

tendered this spring. These projects will include homes in Hall Beach, Iqaluit, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, and Arviat. It's evident that in the coming months, the number of units that require mould remediation will increase.

This project represents a significant logistical and financial undertaking, and the corporation is taking action within these constraints.

Of course prevention is key. If caught early, minor mould can be cleaned with unscented detergent and water. Maintaining good ventilation in homes is also important. It is important to use bathroom fans and kitchen range hoods consistently and keep ventilation units on.

The corporation is working to ensure that local housing organizations have the in-house capacity they need to help manage mould prevention and remediation. To that end, 196 local housing employees in all 25 communities have completed mould remediation training.

The corporation has also been working with consultants to develop design changes aimed at improving ventilation and air quality conditions within the public housing units in order to mitigate the potential for mould generation. The corporation will incorporate these design changes into future builds.

We have a great deal of work ahead of us. However, by using a team-based approach with the local housing organizations and by engaging closely with tenants on mould prevention education, we will continue to make progress.



Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will continue to update the Legislative Assembly on this ongoing project.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 016 – 5(2):  
Carbon Pricing in Nunavut**

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update this Assembly on Canada's intention to establish a national carbon price.

First I would like to emphasize that the Government of Nunavut recognizes the impacts of climate change. Nunavut's lands and waters are especially sensitive to Earth's rising temperatures, and Inuit have long understood the need to respect our environment. We understand the importance of taking steps to reduce the negative impacts humans have on our environment. We are prepared to play our part in helping reduce carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions.

This is why the Government of Nunavut signed on to the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* in late 2016. A key part of this plan is to set a national price on harmful emissions, a carbon price. By making activities that pollute slightly more expensive, individuals and businesses will find their own ways to pollute less.

Mr. Speaker, we agree that carbon pricing can be a good tool when individuals and businesses have a choice about how to pollute less. However, the

ability to make these choices is limited in Nunavut. We rely on oil for our heat. We rely on diesel generators for our electricity. We rely on aviation fuel to transport food, goods, and people. These are facts of life in Nunavut and will be for some time. Unlike most other places in Canada, we do not have workable, reliable, or cost-effective alternatives to our high-carbon activities.

Mr. Speaker, we have raised these concerns to our federal counterparts. My officials have argued consistently for a program that recognizes Nunavut's unique needs. I have spoken with Finance Minister Bill Morneau on this in early February and our Premier discussed this issue with the Prime Minister in May. At all levels we have maintained that a carbon price will not be as effective in Nunavut as it is elsewhere in Canada. This is why I have informed my federal counterpart that the Government of Nunavut does not intend to administer a territorial carbon tax.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, we accept that the Government of Canada will now take steps to set up and administer a carbon tax in Nunavut, which we expect will come into force in 2019. Canada will bear all costs of administering and enforcing their tax, but has committed to sharing 100 percent of all revenues with us. In this way the Government of Nunavut will have full authority over what we can do with these revenues.

The amount of revenues will depend on the details of the federal government's program, which are not yet finalized. However, according to early estimates by Environment and Climate Change

Canada, the federal carbon tax could generate over \$15 million in new revenues for the Government of Nunavut in 2019-2020. For the interest of members and Nunavummiut, I will make a copy of the federal analysis available on our website. We plan to have further details about how our government proposes to use these revenues in the 2019-2020 budget.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize that while our government has chosen to not impose a carbon tax ourselves, we support national efforts to fight climate change. Still we will continue to press the federal government to ensure it implements its carbon tax in a way that recognizes Nunavut's unique circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasié.

**Minister's Statement 017 – 5(2):  
Baker Lake Artist Workshops**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage is pleased to announce a project that highlights the art history of beautiful Baker Lake.

>> *Laughter*

Indeed all of our communities are beautiful.

**An Hon. Member:** Yes.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Culture and Heritage had a series of printmaking and embroidery workshops at the Jessie Oonark Centre in Baker Lake in March. The workshops, which were open to the public, were planned in collaboration with the Winnipeg Art Gallery and were concluded with a community exhibition to showcase the art that has been produced during the workshops. Two experienced Inuit artists instructed the workshops.

An artist residency has also been incorporated into the project that will allow the artist to work alongside the instructors and participants to produce art. It is hoped that some of the art produced will be showcased in a larger Culture and Heritage project that will exhibit contemporary Baker Lake art in Baker Lake and later at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, this workshop is part of the ongoing training and mentorship programs Culture and Heritage is conducting to build heritage collections management capacity in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 018 – 5(2):  
Office of the Auditor General's  
2018 Report on Climate Change in  
Nunavut**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start, I

say “good day” to the people of Arviat. I also say “happy birthday” to my daughter, June Nauyaq Savikataaq. Happy birthday and have a good day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker and fellow members, I would like to tell you about my department’s recent involvement in the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts’ hearing on the climate change in Nunavut report prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada. My department participated in this hearing along with witnesses from the Department of Community and Government Services, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, my department has accepted the two recommendations made from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada. These recommendations focus on the need for developing updated strategies and implementation plans, as well as to fully assess the risks of climate change on the Government of Nunavut. The Climate Change Secretariat is already exploring opportunities to address these recommendations and will be working interdepartmentally to coordinate next steps.

I would like to thank members of the standing committee for their participation in this hearing and asking detailed and well-informed questions on the subject of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister’s Statement 019 – 5(2):  
National Victims and Survivors of  
Crime Week**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, to my constituents in Cambridge Bay.

Victims and survivors of crime have been through traumatic and life-changing experiences. While many victims and survivors use their personal resilience to move beyond their victimization and to create positive change, they do not have to do it alone. There is no shame in asking for help after experiencing the trauma and violence of a criminal act, and there are services available for victims and survivors of crime.

May 27 to June 2 is National Victims and Survivors of Crime Week. Victims and Survivors of Crime Week raises awareness about the issues victims and survivors of crime face and the services, programs, and laws that will help them and their families.

Across Nunavut, dedicated people work with victims and survivors of crime every day. Service providers and criminal justice professionals give information and meaningful support to victims and survivors and their families as they navigate the criminal justice system.

Services for victims and survivors of crime are available across Nunavut by calling the toll-free victim services line at 1-866-456-5216 or emailing [victimservices@gov.nu.ca](mailto:victimservices@gov.nu.ca). The

Department of Justice encourages all victims and survivors of crime to reach out and seek help.

Together we can support one another and end the stigma that victims and survivors of crime can face. I would like to ask that we stand for a moment of silence to reflect and respect those we have lost to crime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Moment of silence*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 032 – 5(2): The Future of Kugluktuk's Elders Centre**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my frustration at the lack of initiative on the part of our government to support a homegrown solution to a very real and urgent issue faced by the residents and community of Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, in response to my questions in the House, the Minister of Health indicated that the government has decided to issue a request for proposals for establishing a new elder long-term care facility in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the

government's desire to ensure that opportunities to build new infrastructure and initiate new ventures are made available to businesses and organizations in a fair and transparent manner. The RFP process allows for that and I do not disagree with that.

However, it seems to me that the government should also seize those opportunities to partner with communities which take it upon themselves to address urgent needs such as providing local long-term care for our elders.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Nunavut needs more than one long-term care facility. It is not clear why the government cannot consider and support different approaches to meeting that need.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Kugluktuk has invested a considerable amount of time and effort to get the proposed Kugluktuk Continuing Long-Term Care project ready to proceed. Not only would this facility provide a much-needed service for our elders by keeping them closer to their families and culture, but it would also provide training and employment for our residents. It is a win-win option.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my member's statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement today. Are there any nays? Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak, please proceed.

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

It is very frustrating when on the one hand our government urges Nunavummiut to learn to be self-sufficient and to work together to find our own solutions, but on the other hand will not commit to providing the necessary support.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote a line from the vision statement of our government's *Turaaqtavut* mandate. "Government supports communities to build on their strengths and enables their self-reliance."

Mr. Speaker, for the record, it seems to me that by refusing to support the community of Kugluktuk's proposal to build on its strengths and to enable self-reliance by providing local care for our elders, the government is not living up to the objective that it has for itself. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 033 – 5(2):  
Congratulations to Environmental  
Technology Graduates**

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

Mr. Speaker, it always gives me great pride to rise in this House and congratulate the residents of Sanikiluaq on their successes and achievements. I believe that these achievements are positive steps towards the future of the community and the future of Nunavut as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mick Appaqaq and Jonah Qittusuk on successfully completing their second year at Nunavut Arctic College's Environmental Technology Program.

Mr. Speaker, achieving an educational milestone such as this opens up many doors to new opportunities and careers for these young men. Not only have they successfully completed this course, but the skills they learned along the way, as well as their self-discipline and dedication to their studies, are tools that they can rely on in their lives ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mick Appaqaq and Jonah Qittusuk on their success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

**Member's Statement 034 – 5(2):  
Support for Medical Interpreters**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Coral Harbour and the people of Naujaat. The geese are returning to our lands.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I rise today to express a systemic concern related to elders who have appointments that require the services of an interpreter, especially in our communities.

As colleagues are aware, the majority of our elders are unilingual Inuktitut speakers and the majority of the nurses, doctors, and other health professionals require good interpreters, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are all aware, many of our elders are unilingual Inuktitut speakers. Meanwhile the vast majority of our health professionals, which we really appreciate, our doctors and nurses, do not speak our language. It is clear that the role of the medical interpreters is very critical in the delivery of our health system. The role of these medical interpreters is to ensure that medical clients can express their concerns or symptoms and be understood while at the same time relaying the opinion, diagnosis, and treatment options from the health professional back to the patient.

Mr. Speaker, it has been noted that medical interpreters do not use the appropriate terminology, even for such basic terms as body parts.

(interpretation) It is unfortunate as organs comprise a major part of the human body diagnostic work, but it can lead to problems when one doesn't know the terminology, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there is a concern that incorrect interpretation and translation by our medical interpreters may lead to misdiagnosis and the wrong course of treatment. This puts added pressure and stress on medical clients and undermines the role of the interpreters.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that our medical interpreters, who are key players in the delivery of health care across Nunavut, be given the appropriate training and resources to do their job effectively, without fear or concern that misinterpretation could lead to misdiagnosis, incorrect treatment, or worse.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Department of Health has developed a series of medical terminology modules for use in the ongoing training of medical interpreters.

Mr. Speaker, my time is up. I seek unanimous consent to proceed with my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement today. Are there any nays? Thank you. Mr. Netser, please proceed.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the members for their unanimous consent.

(interpretation ends) I'm going to rewind it now that I have all the time in the world.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Department of Health has developed a series of medical terminology modules for use in the ongoing training of medical interpreters. However, it is important that medical interpreters in our smaller communities are given adequate support to access and learn from these modules.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking the Hon. Minister of Health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 035 – 5(2):  
Appreciation to Noel Kaludjak**

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

Yesterday, as I referenced, a fishing derby was organized where I recognized them. I was also supposed to include Dayna Ussak, whom I didn't mention, who is Iris Tatty's older sister. They formed a team with April Wadden, Amy Siusangnark, and Susan Hicke for organizing the event.

Also, snowmobile races were run over a period of three days. Noel Kaludjak organized the snowmobile races and this will be his final year of organizing the event, so I acknowledge him. Thank you, Noel Kaludjak.

The first place winner was Leo Kaludjak, the second place winner was my own son, Jarvis Towtongie, and Randy Eecherk came in third for the snowmobile races. For the dog team races which were also held over three days, the first place winner was Michael Evo from Arviat, and the second place winner was Silu Oolooyuk, and the third place winner, who was also the only female participant, Natalie Taylor Towtongie, who is my granddaughter who partook in the dog team races.

For those listening in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, I wish you a good day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for

Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hicke.

**Member's Statement 036 – 5(2):  
Ability to Represent Constituents**

**Mr. Hicke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to take a little step back in time and re-read a member's statement I read in this House on March 18, 2014. I will skip the short preamble I had where I thanked the Minister of Finance for once again assisting homeowners with the home heating fuel rebate, as I have yet the opportunity to thank the minister for reinvigorating that program.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send a strong message to the government. All of us in this House have the responsibility and the obligation to represent our constituents to the best of our ability. For those of us who sit to your left, Mr. Speaker, that includes the duty to raise concerns, ask tough questions, and hold the government to account.

Mr. Speaker, on any given day, we can all expect to receive a number of phone calls, emails, and other communications from our constituents. Since my election and subsequent re-election, many residents of Iqaluit have approached me with ideas, concerns, and suggestions regarding ways in which our government can improve the way it serves the public. I value this input and use it every day in my work.

Mr. Speaker, unlike many legislatures in the country, our role as regular MLAs is not to defeat the government or to treat every question period as an opportunity to call for a minister's resignation or to exchange childish insults.

Mr. Speaker, although we are here to

hold the government to account, we're not here to specifically bring it down. However, I believe this message needs to be heard more clearly in all parts of our government's administration.

Although we all recognize the importance of ensuring the privacy rights of Nunavummiut are respected by the government, and although we all recognize the need to allow the public service to do its work and provide confidential advise to ministers, that does not mean that residents should be afraid to approach their elected members from time to time.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, it's important for all of us to be mindful that Nunavut is a small jurisdiction. Over 3,000 Nunavummiut are employed by the government as public servants, teachers, health care professionals, first responders, and many other professions.

Mr. Speaker, I would go so far as to predict that every single Member of this House has at least one close friend or relative who is employed by the government in some capacity.

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

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. It was around that time four years ago that I had to ask for an extension as well.

Mr. Speaker, raising suggestions, ideas, questions, and concerns with a Member of the Legislative Assembly is very different from finding the nearest reporter or news camera to publicly criticize the government. It's also very different from a formal whistle-blowing process that involves allegations of wrongdoing or lawbreaking.

Mr. Speaker, muzzles and gag orders are not healthy for our government and they're not healthy for this Legislative Assembly.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hickes:** If we as MLAs do not have the opportunity to hear directly from our constituents on their ideas for how to improve the way we do business, we will all lose touch.

Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of losing touch with my constituents and I also have no intention of being muzzled in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 037 – 5(2):  
Nunavut's Top Inuit Prospector –  
John Tugak**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, fellow MLAs, Premier, and ministers. Firstly, I would like to state that I concur with my colleague; therein I need to make a statement here.

Nonetheless, I want to start by extending



my congratulations to one of my constituents in Arviat, a fellow resident who I want to talk about, which is why I rise today. I refer to John Tugak. He has been acknowledged and recognized by *Up Here Business* magazine. It says in English, (interpretation ends) “Nunavut’s top Inuit prospector.”

**An Hon. Member:** Wow!

>>Applause

**An Hon. Member:** Way to go, John!

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): I am very proud of your accomplishment, John. He lives in my constituency of Arviat (interpretation ends) North, (interpretation) of which I am quite happy about.

He was able to convert his claims into a development agreement with a major player, Agnico Eagle, on one of his claims located in the interior near Whale Cove. I believe it is called (interpretation ends) Borealis (interpretation) in English. Now he will be working with the company as the claim bore gold when prospected and it will now be drilled to determine the deposit size.

I am very proud of John’s accomplishment. He is quoted as saying that he took the prospectors course offered by (interpretation ends) Economic Development (interpretation) that started his work. I have to thank (interpretation ends) Economic Development (interpretation) as well as Nunavut Tunngavik.

I’ll read this in English. (interpretation ends) “In addition to the Nunavut government’s Prospectors Program,

Tugak benefits from a Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated policy that allows Inuk prospectors to hold up to two 500-hectare parcels of land for up to two years at no charge.”

(interpretation) I just wish to inform the people of Nunavut to note this possibility and I encourage any interested persons to conduct prospecting as our land is quite huge. I ask all Nunavummiut to continue searching for economic potential to make some income off the mining sector, including gold and other minerals.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I’ll quote John Tugak to end my statement here. “I hope my own people learn as much as they can about what we have. Nunavut is very young and has a lot of potential to provide jobs. That’s what we need today.” Thank you, John Tugak. (interpretation) I am very proud of you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member’s Statement 038 – 5(2):  
Pangnirtung Program to Help  
Expecting Mothers Make Amautis**

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

I would like to congratulate Pangnirtung residents. The hamlet received wellness funding in Pangnirtung for pregnant and breastfeeding women. They were provided funding so that they could offer

cooking classes. Pangnirtung's Courtney Cox and Nina-Ann Tassugat were the instructors of the program. They were also teaching amauti-making and nine students completed the course.

I would like to congratulate the ladies in Pangnirtung who just recently had a baby or are expecting, including women who are breastfeeding. The students were able to make brand-new amautit for themselves. I would like to state that I am quite proud of their accomplishment, which they commenced this fall in October, and the course is scheduled for completion in June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 039 – 5(2):  
Identifying Departmental  
Overfunding**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to make a statement on Mr. Main's question yesterday. He asked the Minister of Finance if there were any areas that have a pattern of historical overfunding.

The minister's response is, "At this point I do not have anything that is historically overfunded to identify and I cannot say in this House whether there has been any, but it is a very good question for me to research and come back to this House."

I would just like to state that I have actually done that research. I have done a thorough analysis and review of prior

year budgets as well as actual expenditures. At the appropriate time I will be asking each and every minister and their officials to justify their expenditures and the budgets that they are requesting.

Given the fact that we are in a unique position this year where the budgets are being approved after the close of the 2017-18 fiscal year, I also ask they provide us with some of the 2017-18 actuals or be prepared to share them with us if we so ask for them to further identify any trends that my analysis has uncovered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Member's Statement 040 – 5(2):  
Spring Seal Hunt Underway**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been quite a while since I rose under Members' Statements.

Firstly, to my fellow residents of Igloolik, now known as the constituency of Aggu, and actually to all fellow residents in Igloolik and even Hall Beach, I wish them a good day.

It is obviously a nice, early springtime day, though some people term this season as "spring." In the Inuktitut language, it is more specific and this season is called "upirngaksaq," or early spring, reaching to this date now.

Inuit will be commencing their annual spring seal pup sea ice hunts, and I am

envious of their opportunity to do so in our area both in Hall Beach and Igloolik. Spring seal pup hunting is an enjoyable event, and my colleague for Amittuq is well familiar with this practice. This includes many other places that conduct spring seal pup igloo hunting, as it is one of the most fun hunting activities as a family. This does not only apply to Igloolik but perhaps to other communities such as Pond Inlet and Naujaat, where residents conduct spring seal pup hunts. This occurs in early spring or in springtime and it is commonly practised by Inuit from our community.

Families become closer as they cooperatively work to harvest the young seal pups and they feast on their catch together. This is part of our Inuit culture. This is a major part of our cultural practices when spring rolls around. The families work together, from youth, children to even mothers in their amautis who will partake in these spring seal pup hunts by waiting at designated seal holes. I wanted to relay this cultural practice that I take great pride in.

Spring is enjoyed by many Inuit both in becoming closer as Inuit families but also in learning to work cooperatively. In looking at this practice, we can incorporate it as a government and as legislators where this should form part of our pool of knowledge. We have to ensure we practise these skills if we are going to follow *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as a government. These are ancient practices we follow to today and in remembering the past practices such as I just did, it helps to focus on assisting each other.

This is very important and I wanted to

point that out primarily because I seem to be the only non-tanned MLA here in this House, and I don't think I even have a suntan yet. I haven't been out enough to get a suntan. I wish a good day to everyone who is starting to get a tan due to being outside, and let's enjoy the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 041 – 5(2):  
Opening of Kenojuak Cultural  
Centre**

**Hon. David Joanase** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about happy news I wish to share. Mr. Speaker, over quite some time, organizers fundraised and collected donations from anywhere they could, including government and local businesses. As of today, they were able to complete the Kenojuak Cultural Centre, which is a beautiful art centre in Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, this centre is located right in the middle of the community. It is a beautiful blue colour that is contrasted by the rocky hill it is situated on. It is as if it was built so you can point it out. Mr. Speaker, Cape Dorset is very well known for their renowned artists. It is beautiful just like Baker Lake. I said (interpretation ends) beautiful Baker Lake (interpretation) and I can also say (interpretation ends) beautiful Cape

Dorset.

(interpretation) I would like to recognize the hamlet council and the Co-op for working together to establish this facility. I would also like to thank the federal government's Canadian Heritage and the Nunavut government for providing funding. We are also grateful to the people who fundraised through bingo and various activities inside and outside of the community. Many years of hard work went into this facility.

On behalf of the community of Cape Dorset, I would like to thank everyone for their support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Member's Statement 042 – 5(2):  
Cambridge Bay Annual Fishing  
Derby**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Cambridge Bay residents participated in the annual fishing derby this weekend, which was the Ambrose Aknavigak fishing derby. Thanks to the coordinators, Evelyn Kitigon and Rick Lawrie, who set this all up on their own, found donations, and coordinated the fishing derby.

Aknavigak was a respected elder who, during this time, was always out fishing from morning until night. He would tell the residents that no one knew where his fishing spot was, but as you go out, you could see him out there. He encouraged

many to come out and enjoy the weather and enjoy the tradition of fishing.

Congratulations to all the winners, and I would like to wish all Nunavummiut who at this time of year are out geese hunting, fishing, and enjoying the weather safe travels and encourage everyone to enjoy this time of year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to recognize one of my constituents today. She participates and is often the only person in the gallery watching our proceedings and is always here paying attention with interest. I have also participated with her in different programs, including ASIST training here in Iqaluit. I often see her at many different public meetings and forums. She has always been a very active participant.

I'm almost ashamed to say that I haven't recognized her to date, but I want to make up for that today and formally recognize and welcome to the House Ms. Lili Weemen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Weemen, welcome to the gallery and always feel welcome.

Further, to the residents who aren't in the gallery but in Iqaluit, you are always welcome to visit your Legislative Assembly. We are quite easy to visit as we are welcoming.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. I'm sorry. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 058 – 5(2): Provisions of the Public Service Act

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I felt the need to revisit a member's statement I made a little over four years ago, I have also revisited the line of questioning that I had for the minister the next day. Today my questions are for the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the *Public Service Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the thousands of Nunavummiut who work for the territorial government across 25 different communities need to be assured that their right to communicate with their elected Members of the Legislative Assembly will be respected and feel comfortable that they will not be targeted with blind accusations from within the public administration for doing so. Examples have been raised in this House by media and members of the public who bring their issues to me or other members of this legislature.

For the benefit of the permanent record,

can the minister confirm that the *Public Service Act* does not prohibit public servants from communicating with their MLAs? In fact it's stated in Part 6 of the *Public Service Act*, Protection against reprisal, section 46(1), that "No person shall commit an act of reprisal against a person because that person makes a disclosure of wrongdoing in accordance with section 40 or gives evidence or assists in an investigation by the Ethics Officer or other public official." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you very much for that question and for this House to be confirmed that yes, our employees are free from providing information to any of our MLAs. We are all elected. Through the *Public Service Act*, there are a number of ways that they are protected and that there are processes if there is any wrongdoing. There are numerous human resource manuals on how these directives are worked on.

All emphasis is that employees do have those rights. If those rights are violated, then we do have appropriate processes and different venues. My colleague just mentioned one of them, which is the ethics officer, and he is readily available and encourages staff and I encourage staff to contact him if they feel that they are threatened or they feel that they haven't been able to be provided that sufficient speaking ability to any of our members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response and confirmation. Just to go a little bit further, the government produced a Code of Values and Ethics for the public service. Can the minister again confirm for the record that the Code of Values and Ethics does not prohibit public servants from communicating with their MLAs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The code of values does strengthen our employees. It is not always about whether they're in conflict. It allows them and explains how they can be protected. I encourage everybody to follow that directive. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the minister for that confirmation. I sincerely thank the minister. I hope that those are clarified to all employees. Also it is important to recognize the difference between situations when public servants simply want to have general discussions with their MLAs as opposed to situations where a public servant feels duty-bound to disclose potential wrongdoing in a workplace.

Mr. Speaker, whenever I've had a constituent employed by the GN bring forward issues or concerns, like a lot of my colleagues here, we have always

assisted in guiding them through the appropriate process, whether it be a workplace safety issue, such as mould in the workplace, or a human resource concern.

I and I'm sure my colleagues have always respected the process of reporting or requesting investigation into allegations. However, the issue of employees being told not to bring to the attention of their MLA any concerns they may have seems to have reared its ugly head again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this: is the minister aware of any directives issued to senior management or by a senior management to dissuade or even go so far as to direct employees to not involve their MLA if they need any sort of guidance or have concerns they feel are not being addressed, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There are absolutely no directives that have come from my department or me in swaying this. If there are individual cases and members are aware of this, I would like to know it as soon as possible. It is one that I am trying to ensure and communicate. On a regular basis we put out public announcements of where to go. We issue public service announcements on our code of ethics, on our ethics officer, and how to locate and follow our processes when there are conflicts. If there is any of this, please, I encourage any of my MLAs to come.

Also, as we do need to protect our

employees' privacy, we do have forms that are available that if any employees want their MLAs to speak about their situation, they are to fill that form out and bring it along. With that, it gives us assurance that employees have the confidence to have discussions with myself or any of our officials because privacy is of utmost importance, but also employees should also always feel free to make those discussions.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 059 – 5(2): Installation of Reverse Osmosis Filters in Public Housing Units**

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

Last week the Minister of Community and Government Services [confirmed] that reverse osmosis filters have been installed in Sanikiluaq in order to help address the ongoing issues with the community's water supply.

After asking questions on the topic, I received some concerns from constituents regarding the frequency with which filters are being replaced. Can the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicate how often these filters should be replaced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. I assure you when the Minister of CGS was being asked questions, I was listening very closely then too.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, these reverse osmosis filters are replaced... They have a life of about six months of use before you have to change them, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tenants use these filtering systems on a daily basis and usually they are the first to know that the reverse osmosis filters are not working properly. Can the minister confirm whether or not public housing tenants or other tenants for that matter, I guess, can request a filter replacement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, the replacement of these osmosis machines, as I said, is every six months. If a tenant feels that their filter is not filtering properly or has expired, they are more than welcome and in fact encouraged to contact the local housing authority. It will be checked into to see if the machine does in fact need to be changed. There might be cases where their use might exceed faster than the six months. For sure, they can ask to replace them if necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past two years I have been able to vote in favour of capital funding for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's construction of 20 new housing units in Sanikiluaq. Fifteen units were funded for construction in the 2017-18 fiscal year and five units are funded for construction in 2018-19.

Is the minister able to confirm whether or not reverse osmosis filters are also being installed in these units? I ask that question because some of the new units that were constructed last year have been occupied since November of last year and they still do not have the reverse osmosis machines installed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I thank the colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, in some instances some of the tenants do not want reverse osmosis machines installed. I don't understand why, but that is the case in some cases.

Mr. Speaker, we will ensure that every household in Sanikiluaq that wishes to have clean drinking water will have reverse osmosis machines or whatever to ensure that every tenant has clean drinking water in the new buildings that will be built. Mr. Speaker, we will ensure that the same opportunity and same service is provided to all tenants in Sanikiluaq to ensure that they have clean drinking water and we will ensure that the filters are changed in a timely manner.

In that respect, if I may add, Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is working with Community and Government Services to speed up the process. Right now the process is where the housing corporation requests for filters, Community and Government Services orders them and sends them to the housing corporation. I am working very closely with the CGS minister to ensure that we fix it so the ordering and everything is done more adequately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

#### **Question 060 – 5(2): Status of Action Plan to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Minister of Finance.

As the minister is aware, alcohol abuse is a major issue for the community of Pangnirtung, which was discussed by our hamlet council.

The government's action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut that was produced by the (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut*, (interpretation) which is the title, indicates that one of its ongoing priorities in Nunavut is "Providing training in Inuktitut and using models that combine Inuit counselling practices with a focus on addressing substance use."



In yesterday's Budget Address, the minister indicated that the government will "invest in and improve the outcomes of mental health [and] addictions...through a mix of traditional and contemporary approaches."

(interpretation ends) For the record, can the minister confirm how much new funding is included in this year's budget for implementing priorities that are contained in the action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut? *Qujannamiik*, Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have set aside \$250,000 through the revolving fund. It will continue this year to be used for promotion, communications, and awareness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut indicates that it will monitor and evaluate how the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store "impacts various aspects of community life..."

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) the opening of the store here has also had an impact on the residents of other communities, including Pangnirtung. For example, I am concerned that the opening of the beer and wine store may be resulting in more alcohol-related incidents in the boarding home, where many of my constituents stay while they

are here in town to receive medical treatment.

How is the minister's department evaluating the impact that the opening of the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store is having on other communities, including Pangnirtung? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The beer and wine store in Iqaluit is a three-year pilot project, and that is one that we are collecting the data on in terms of how much beer and alcohol is available here in the community.

For communities where they are prohibited, they are not to bring alcohol. Pangnirtung is a prohibited community. With the plebiscites that are taking place, the community's prohibition should be enforced. If there are documents and information that can be connected with the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store... . We sell beer and wine, which is the reason why we opened it, to reduce the hard liquor from this community and encourage more responsible drinking with less alcohol content.

If there is information that is collected either by the RCMP or the community alcohol committees or any of our residents, I would encourage them to report it to our liquor licensing board and to our department because we want to hear this. For the three-year pilot project, that is the information that we are going to use in order to assess whether to continue the beer and wine

store. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was very clear and I thank you very much for your response. It's not only a problem in Pangnirtung. I'm aware of other communities that have concerns about residents bringing alcohol to restricted or prohibited communities.

The issue of bootlegging is a major concern for my community. I recognize and understand that the police need a basis on which to conduct searches. The government's action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut indicates that one of its priorities is "Alerting the RCMP to unusual activities related to alcohol use" and for bringing alcohol in. Can the minister indicate how many bootleggers have been charged with offences under the *Liquor Act* during the current 2018 calendar year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question. I do not have information regarding offences under the *Liquor Act* in front of me, but it's part of the pilot project that we're conducting, and it is of concern to the communities. When I get the information, I'll make sure that the member receives a copy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

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

### **Question 061 – 5(2): Departmental Procurement and Contracting Activities**

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

During our recent winter sitting, the government's most recent annual reports on procurement, contracting and leasing activities were tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The government's procurement report indicates that the Department of EDT awarded no fewer than six separate contracts to the same consulting firm for a total of over \$800,000 for various "advisory" and "management support" services.

Can the minister explain why the department would need to pay close to a million dollars to receive "senior level advice" when it already has a significant number of senior managers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): I apologize. I didn't entirely understand that. Was it for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation? I apologize. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is a large sum of money in multiple contracts. This was used not only for advice that was given to the department; it was also to fill in for capacity issues we had in terms of

vacancies. I don't have all the details in front of me, but the department had quite a few vacancies and we just did not have the capacity at that time, and this company was used multiple times.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I look at the 2016-17 *Public Service Annual Report*, it indicates that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation was at 82 percent capacity in their senior management positions. When I compare it to the 2017-18 figures, the department is still at a little bit higher, 85 percent capacity in senior management positions. Can we expect to see similar servicing contracts in the 2017-18 Procurement Activity Report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The simple answer is no, there will not be the same level of contracts with this firm in 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his Budget Address of yesterday, the Minister of Finance clearly stated that we, as a government, need to carefully consider how to reduce costs so that we can free up resources for

higher priority programs. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that some contracting costs are necessary, especially in such areas as health care. However, my position is that a good start would be for every department to aim to reduce its expenditures by 25 percent on management consulting contracts for work that should be performed by the department itself. Will the minister commit to setting a target for his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I cannot commit to setting a target, but as I stated earlier, the 2018 budget with this firm, the contracts will be nothing like what they were in the past. We have dealt with this issue and we have corrected a few things that had to be corrected, and we are turning the page and going on. We will spend our money as carefully, wisely, and prudently as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 062 – 5(2): Motor Vehicles Act**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I'll ask them in English.

(interpretation ends) In 2017, major amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act* were passed by the Legislative Assembly. I will have some questions

about these amendments today.

As the minister is aware, the issue of old vehicles and scrap metals in our communities is a concern. One of the amendments allows the government to make regulations concerning end-of-life fees for vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the government is looking at introducing fees for vehicles that are shipped to Nunavut to help pay the cost of disposing old vehicles when they reach the end of their lives. Can the minister update the House today on the status of his department on this issue?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member said, we are working on it and looking at it, he is correct, for end-of-life fee for vehicles that come into Nunavut. It is not a simple solution. We are looking at it and working with municipalities in terms of how to roll out with a program that is fair but effective because, when vehicles are done their useful life in Nunavut, they end up at the municipal dump and then the municipalities have to deal with them.

I believe that if we charged a one-time upfront fee for vehicles that are coming into Nunavut, it would be quite high if you want to deal with the problem effectively. We don't know if we should charge every person that registers a little bit every year or what the solution is, but we are looking at it. We also don't want to make it so cost prohibitive that people

just start abandoning their vehicles all over the place.

We are committed to coming up with a solution, but we haven't got an equalized system that would work well and be fair to the people of Nunavut yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) Another one of the amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act* allows the government to make regulations to establish a graduated driver's licence system. Mr. Speaker, can the minister update the House today on the status of his department's work on the issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be blunt with the member and just say that we want to figure out how to get our driver's licence out in a timely manner before we throw another wrench into the system in terms of the graduated driver's licence. Once we have the system clearly running, a well-oiled, smooth machine, about how long it takes to get your driver's licence, we can start looking at these other things that could be added on. At the moment it's in the backburner until we can have a more efficient and effective way of getting new licences and renewing licences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Act... (interpretation ends) The amendments to the legislation are not yet enforced. What is the government's current timetable for bringing the amendments into force? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can get clarification on which amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaerner, please clarify which amendment you're referring to. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It states here in the (interpretation ends) summary, it provides for a graduated licensing program to meet the regulations. The bill also introduces an end of life for motor vehicles. Will the minister bring the amendments into force and when? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we're working on the end-of-life vehicle fee so that we can come up with a system that is fair for the people who own the vehicle that's not too cost prohibitive but also fair to the municipalities that have to dispose of these or store or whatever they're going to do with end-of-life vehicles.

As for the graduated licence, as I stated earlier too, it is put on the backburner until we can solve the problem of not getting your driver's licence in a timely manner because another obstacle that was thrown in our way unexpectedly was the fact that the RCMP will no longer be doing drivers' examination, so we have to deal with that too. Once we deal with all the issues so that people of Nunavut can get a driver's licence and renewals in an effective, timely manner, then we will start looking at graduated licences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

#### **Question 063 – 5(2): The Future of Kugluktuk's Elders Centre**

**Ms. Kamingoak**: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, on April 10, 2018 I wrote to the Premier in his capacity as Minister responsible for Seniors to ask for his support for the Hamlet of Kugluktuk's initiative in proposing to build a continuing long-term care facility. I have yet to receive a response. Can the minister confirm whether he received my letter and, if so, when he plans to respond? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Seniors, Minister Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for her question. I don't recall exactly whether or not I have seen the letter. Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen the

letter and I don't remember how it was received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in my member's statement earlier today, the government's *Turaaqtavut* mandate states in its vision statement that government supports communities to build on their strengths and enables their self-reliance. Can the Premier clarify whether supporting communities to build on their strengths and enable self-reliance would include such initiatives as entering into partnerships to deliver much-needed services at the local level? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely. We have seen that the aging population has doubled in Nunavut since 2004. I am very sensitive to the increase. We have stated that with health care, we need to take care of our elders and it's our priority as the Nunavut government to provide services to the elders. Our *Turaaqtavut* mandate states that and I believe in that mandate. Well, we all believe in that mandate because we have worked together and agreed on this mandate.

As the Minister responsible for Seniors, I am in support of giving seniors proper care, and I know that we will be working very hard on how we can provide support programs to the seniors. We have also agreed on how we can provide

better support at their homes because speaking the same language and understanding each other's language is very important, so therefore we need a facility close to home. I agree with my colleague that our priorities are stated in the *Turaaqtavut* mandate and we will follow it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I'm confident that there are a number of activities and programs to be addressed under the portfolio for the Minister responsible for Seniors. Will the minister commit to providing an update to this House on any initiatives that he or his colleagues may be considering establishing partnerships with non-government entities to provide services to elders and seniors across Nunavut? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut will certainly provide the Nunavut Seniors' Society, which represents all of Nunavut's seniors throughout, and (interpretation) it's called *Nunavuumi Inutuqait Katujjiqatigiit*. We will be providing them with funding annually. I just recently met with the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Seniors' Society. (interpretation) I will be discussing these issues with them.

I would also like to get an understanding of how we can provide more support and assistance. Elders have representatives

from the Kitikmeot, Baffin and Kivalliq regions. They are the representatives and they provide information on what is required. I am in full agreement with our seniors because they are very important to our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 064 – 5(2): Kivalliq Mine Training Society**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development.

Mr. Speaker, creating employment opportunities for Nunavummiut is very important. As a government, we cannot create job opportunities out of the blue. I know we have employees, but we need to provide support to private business in Nunavut because they provide employment.

At this time, as residents of the Kivalliq, we expect to see hundreds of jobs, (interpretation ends) hundreds of jobs, hundreds of millions of dollars in private investment right now happening in the Kivalliq region. I'm referring to the development of the Whale Tail deposit north of Baker Lake and also to the expected opening of the Meliadine gold mine in 2019.

I have conveyed my concerns in this House to the Minister for Nunavut Arctic College. I would like to ask the Minister for Economic Development and Transportation regarding the Kivalliq Mine Training Society, which is a key

organization to pull in and leverage federal dollars with private dollars and Nunavut government dollars to get Nunavummiut into jobs. What is happening with that organization?

My understanding is that at this key moment in time, the wheels have fallen off, and that organization is not functioning where it should be. If the minister could please provide an update with regard to the Kivalliq Mine Training Society. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is right that the Kivalliq Mine Training Centre is not as active as it was in the past. We have worked with them in the past and have done many training stuff with them in the past, and lots of stuff was done in the past.

The member is correct that there's not too much activity right now between the government and the Kivalliq Mine Training Centre. I also agree with him that we have to start the training now in order to get the jobs that are coming. He is correct; he says there are hundreds of jobs coming. In order for Nunavummiut to benefit, we have to train our people to get those jobs before they are given to people from the south because we don't have the trained people to take these positions.

As the member is aware, the Kivalliq Mine Training Centre is an entity on its own and we can't make them do stuff. We still want to work with them, but we

are also looking at a more broad approach to this as to set up a Nunavut-wide mine training centre. There are mines in the Baffin now, there's a mine in the Kitikmeot, and there are probably more to be opened up there. We want to look at the big picture, but we also must focus on in the Kivalliq where we need to train the people from Nunavut and Kivalliq to get those jobs that are coming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister and the idea of a Nunavut mine training society is an interesting one. It's one that I have worked on in the past during my tenure as a private consultant way back when.

In terms of mine training specifically and the minister's department, what plans exist for this fiscal year, specifics in terms of what projects will be run under the heading of mine training and how many dollars will be going into this area? Mr. Speaker, I feel that it is a very solid area for us to invest in, in terms of return on investment. I am interested to hear specifics in terms of economic development and transportation and mine training for this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the dollar figures in front me as to specifically where they're going to be spent, but I know that we have worked with hamlets and communities to try to get training done,

as the member is fully aware.

We've had many drilling programs and work readiness programs run in Arviat. I am not sure if there is a work readiness program running right now, but there was one very recently running in Arviat and I went to go speak with them. A good number of these people that complete the work readiness program get employment, not necessarily with the mine but with other local companies.

As to the exact specifics on how much we're spending and where, I can't give that information right now because I don't have it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of a little preview, I will be tabling a document later today which details the types of positions that will be available in the next three years with Agnico Eagle, and again I am talking about hundreds of jobs here.

I think Economic Development and Transportation might have an opportunity here to be a leader in terms of collecting all the stakeholders. Specifically I am referring to Agnico Eagle, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunavut Arctic College, and other training organizations in the Kivalliq, such as the Hamlet of Arviat. ED&T could convene a meeting as soon as possible to get together a game plan on mine training in the Kivalliq. Does the minister support this idea and can he commit to trying to pull this together? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.



Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For mine training funds just for Arviat, we have committed roughly \$52,000 for 2018-19. We will be spending some money for more of the mine training funds. I believe that we have to work with our partners there like Nunavut Arctic College to get the mine training centre up and running.

I can't speak for the other ministers, but we can't afford to wait if we want to benefit from the jobs that are coming. If we wait, we will miss the bus and the jobs will not go to people of Nunavut. I fully agree that we have to start training our people. If we don't have trained people, these jobs will go to southerners.

I am willing to work with anyone to make sure that we can get some training done so that we can get the people of Nunavut employed and the people of the Kivalliq where the Whale Tail will be operating and where the Meliadine Mine will be opening shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 065 – 5(2): Support for Medical Interpreters**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement I said I had some questions for the Minister of Health, (interpretation ends) the Hon. Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement I raised a concern regarding the lack of training and support for Nunavut's

medical interpreters. Could the minister explain how her department ensures that the language skills of interpreters, especially in the area of medical terminology, are up to the task at hand? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everyone.

Your question is an important one. Language and clear communications obviously are very important, especially when it comes to patient care. With this in mind, we have provided medical interpreting courses that are open to all clerk interpreters in every community. There is a way. There is a process already in place.

As the Department of Health, we have worked very closely with Nunavut Arctic College to develop medical terminology modules and they are offered to all staff who provide medical interpretation services on behalf of the department. We will work with Arctic College because Arctic College provides those kinds of courses already through their Interpreter/Translator Program. Often there are seats available for other departments to use, so we have often taken the opportunity to send some of our staff there. For example, recently there were 20 medical clerk interpreters that took the course here in Iqaluit, I think it was a few months ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the response, minister. It has been noted that some Nunavummiut feel the illness may have been misdiagnosed due to problems with interpretation between the patient and the health professional. My question to the minister is: how does the department ensure that these interpreters in our communities are up to speed with medical terminology, and does she ensure that these people are given mandatory training for the medical terminology that I'm raising?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an important area. Obviously we don't want people in jobs that they're not qualified for. That's very concerning if we have people that are not able to translate properly. That's something that we should know about. We always try to encourage our staff to take more training. There are always opportunities to do that.

If there is such a problem, then if an elder, for example, feels that they didn't get adequate interpretation services, then that elder has all the right to tell the nurse in charge that he or she was not happy with the level of service or quality of service. If they don't want to talk to the nurse in charge, they could call the Office of Patient Relations, they could make a complaint, or they could go to their MLA, such as you, and come to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that we have to depend on the medical patient to the Department of Health that their interpreters can't do the job. That's what the Department of Health is supposed to do, to ensure that our interpreters are capable of proper interpretation of the medical professional. I encourage the minister to do her job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you. I can hear the frustration of the member. Since I have been the minister, which has not been a long time, this problem of not having qualified interpreters in the health care centre has not come up to me, and I get a lot of emails. I would like to stress that we have some health care centres that have very strong interpretation. I don't think it's like this across the board.

If you have a specific concern about your community's clerk interpreter and in how they're interpreting, then I would like to know about it because then we could address it that way. When you hire somebody to do a job, you hope they have the qualifications to do it. That's what we rely on.

If there are any problems, I think something like a misdiagnosis is very concerning and I'm sure it would have come to the attention of my department right away if that had happened. I haven't heard that from my department and I haven't heard about this problem across Nunavut. This is the first time I'm hearing it.

I'm going to assume and I'm going to

believe that most health care centres have the proper interpretation qualifications in place. I encourage anyone who feels that they need more training, they will get their support and I encourage them to further their training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 066 – 5(2): Airline Industry in Nunavut**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I think he's on the hot seat today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, Nunavut is highly dependent on the airline industry for the delivery of essential goods, including perishable food.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the government does not run the airlines. However, the government is responsible for airports and other infrastructure.

Can the minister describe how his department is working to prioritize airport and runway upgrades to make it easier for airlines to use larger and more modern aircraft? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the tools that we have is the 20-year study that was done. It was

completed, I believe, last year. It was tabled late in the last government. Examples of stuff that we're doing right now in terms of how to improve runways, Clyde River will be the next one. It was approved for funding to fix up their runway because it has been in the news and I have done a minister's statement on it that they have problems with their runway.

We look at a case-by-case basis and we have to work with the federal government in terms of what funding would be approved for which airport, what type of projects. The air terminal buildings would be one source of funding. To fix up the runway would be another source of funding. We work with the federal government to come up with a plan to try to service the airports and airstrips as best as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) In July of 2017 the Government of Nunavut issued a request for proposals for a "Nunavut Airline Procurement Strategy." The RFP indicated that the government's objective is to develop a "...Procurement strategy with an overall goal to provide best value to government operations and to all Nunavummiut." The final report from this RFP is due to be provided to the government on July 2, 2018. Will the minister commit to tabling this report during the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I can't commit to tabling it in the fall sitting because the report might be done, but then we use this report to put out RFPs. It's quite a long and complicated process that we will be using to come up with a way to tender out the medical and duty contract which will be under Health. It's an interdepartmental study that is being done.

What we want to do is we want to come up with a way where we come up with a good medical and duty travel contract, but we don't want to disrupt the prices, fares, and routes where the airlines go because, as everyone is aware, some routes between set communities are more profitable than others. We want to make sure that these non-profitable routes are calculated in the whole big picture so that when the procurement comes out, it's the best possible contract we can get for Nunavut yet still be competitive for the airlines to bid on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. He partly answered my final question, but I'll ask it so that it is heard clearly.

(interpretation ends) Earlier this month, the federal government provided \$12.7 million to the airline company First Air for a new cargo facility in Iqaluit. It has been reported that the federal government will introduce a new

program concerning food security in the near future.

Can the minister indicate what input the Government of Nunavut's Department of Economic Development and Transportation has provided to the federal government in terms of designing a new program that takes into account the realities of the airline industry in the north? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The announcement that was made by the federal government for the First Air funding that they're getting for a cargo facility here in Iqaluit is an application process that First Air put into the federal government. Our government had nothing to do with that proposal and it's between them.

As for the new program about food security in Nunavut, to the best of my knowledge, the Department of Economic Development didn't have any input to it, not yet. I haven't heard exactly how this program or what this program will be to roll out. I can only speculate that it might be part of Nutrition North, but as I stated, I have no idea exactly what this program will look like, when it will roll out, and how it will be operated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Therefore we will proceed with the orders of the day. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Budget Address.

Petitions. Responses to Petitions.  
Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other Matters.  
Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Item 13: Reports of Standing and  
Special Committees on Bills and  
Other Matters\***

**Committee Report 001 – 5(2): Report  
on the Review of the 2018 Report  
of the Auditor General of Canada  
to the Legislative Assembly of  
Nunavut – Climate Change in  
Nunavut**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the review of the 2018 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Climate Change in Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, you tabled the 2018 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut during the March 13, 2018 sitting of the House. The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held its hearing on the Auditor General's report from April 30, 2018 to May 1, 2018. The standing committee's hearing was televised live across the territory and was open to the public and news media to observe from the visitors' gallery. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Senior officials from the Department of Environment, the Department of Community and Government Services,

the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation appeared as witnesses on behalf of the Government of Nunavut during the standing committee's televised hearing.

Mr. Speaker, in March of 2018 the Auditor General of Canada, his office's Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and most of Canada's provincial Auditors General released a collaborative report on climate change. This joint publication contained a number of Nunavut-specific references to the findings in the Auditor General's report to the Legislative Assembly on climate change, as well as his recent reports on climate change that were presented to the other territorial legislatures in Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The report included a formal response from the deputy ministers of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. Mr. Speaker, the contents of the collaborative report were referenced on a number of occasions during the standing committee's televised hearing.

In recent years the Auditor General of Canada has submitted a number of important reports to Parliament on topics of concern to this region of the nation, including civil aviation infrastructure in the north, the Nutrition North Canada Program, and oral health programs for Inuit and First Nations. His upcoming fall 2018 report to Parliament is planned to include a chapter on "broadband in remote regions," which is a significant issue of concern to Nunavummiut. The standing committee applauds the Auditor General's ongoing commitment to reporting to Parliament on issues that affect the north.

\*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 1 – 5(2).

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains a number of recommendations to the government. I would like to take a moment to highlight the thematic areas that these recommendations address:

- Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's report contained a total of 12 specific recommendations. Although the Government of Nunavut's responding departments and territorial corporations formally agreed to all 12 of the Auditor General's specific recommendations, none of the responding entities have presented formal action plans to actually implement these recommendations. Consequently the standing committee's first set of recommendations concerns this issue and related matters.
- The standing committee's second set of recommendations concerns the implementation of the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*, including the issue of carbon pricing.
- The standing committee's third set of recommendations concerns the territorial government's use of federal funding for green infrastructure, climate change and renewable energy initiatives.
- Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's fourth set of recommendations concerns the introduction of legislation concerning energy efficiency standards and annual reporting on the government's climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

- The standing committee's fifth set of recommendations concerns public reporting of the outcomes of recent meetings concerning climate change.

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

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation) The member made a motion to have the report of the standing committee received by the House and entered into the record as read. Members, do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The members agreed. Thank you.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. We will start with the Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

#### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 019 – 5(2): Letter to the Mayor of Igloolik from the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table a recent letter that was sent to the Mayor of Igloolik by the Minister

of Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Speaker, this letter concerns two issues: the removal of end-of-life vehicles and support for artists.

I encourage all members to review this document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Tabled Document 020 – 5(2): Agnico Eagle Mines Manpower Forecasts/Projections for the Meliadine Project, the Meadowbank Project, and the Whale Tail Pit Project for the Period of 2018-2021**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table today Agnico Eagle Mines' Manpower Forecast/Projections for the Meliadine Project, the Meadowbank Project, and the Whale Tail Pit Project for the Period of 2018-2021.

Mr. Speaker, this information was recently submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board and clearly shows the need for mine training in the Kivalliq, along with the incredible opportunity that exists for training with these hundreds of jobs coming to our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review this information with care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Tabled Document 021 – 5(2): Letter from Hamlet of Taloyoak – Timeline for New School Project**

**Tabled Document 022 – 5(2): Letter from Hamlet of Taloyoak – Review of Municipal Funding Formula**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table today. The first document is a letter that was sent by the deputy mayor of the Hamlet of Taloyoak regarding the Department of Education's future plans for a new high school in the community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the letter asks that the Minister of Education provide a timeline for Taloyoak's new school project. It is important that the government regularly keeps communities up to date on its plans to avoid miscommunication or misplaced expectations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation) I have a second document to table. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I wish to table today a recent letter that was sent to the Minister of Community and Government Services by the Municipality of Taloyoak concerning the government's municipal funding formula.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this issue during our review of the department's 2018-19 main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Tabled Document 023 – 5(2):  
Correspondence to Premier  
Quassa Regarding Kugluktuk’s  
Plan for an Elders’ Care Facility**

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to table the letter that I sent on April 10, 2018 to Premier Quassa, who is also the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the letter asks for the Premier’s support for the Hamlet of Kugluktuk’s initiative to build a 24-hour continuing long-term care facility in the community. I hope that he will have the opportunity to read it and respond before the end of this sitting. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have no more names on my list. Let’s proceed with the orders of the day. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 4 and 5 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:40 and  
Committee resumed at 16:08*

**Item 20: Consideration in Committee  
of the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Good day, people of

Baker Lake and Nunavut.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: (interpretation ends) Bill 4 and Bill 5. (interpretation) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, members.

Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 4 and the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Does the committee agree to continue with the review of Bill 4?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 04 – Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, 2018-2019 –  
Community and Government  
Services – Consideration in  
Committee**

**Chairman:** I would now like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation)



Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Thank you very much. For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Lori Kimball. To my left is Assistant Deputy Minister Kyle Seeley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I welcome the officials to the Legislative Assembly. I believe it is Mr. Seeley's first appearance before the Committee of the Whole. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. (interpretation ends) I suggest to members that wherever possible, you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

We completed opening comments yesterday, so now I will open the floor for general comments. Do members have any general comments? Please flip to page J-4. Community and Government Services. Directorate. Total Branch. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start off by mentioning that upon review of the directorate's actual expenditures when

compared to prior budgets, there have been a number of items that jump out within the directorate.

I would like to first begin with compensation and benefits. There has been a clear trend within the branch where the salaries have been severely under-budgeted and had a deficit for the last three fiscal years of over \$1 million each fiscal year. My first question on this topic is going to be: what were the actual compensation and benefits expenditures for this branch in 2017-18?

Now, I understand that the 2017-18 year-end figures have not been completed, but we are close to the year-end cut-off date. I would like the closest estimate you can provide to that figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the question. We can't give that to you at this time; it's just not available yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) And a reminder to the members, we are dealing with 2018-19 main estimates. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When looking at the prior year trend, it's unfortunate that the department is unable to provide the 2017-18 actuals, considering that the salaries for 2017-18 were paid several pay periods ago.

Looking at the prior year average, we have an average of over \$9 million, yet the 2018-19 budget for compensation and benefits is only \$8.3 million. I was wondering how the department expects that \$8.3 million is going to be sufficient when it has been obvious that in prior years it hasn't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have my deputy, through you, respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Throughout the year as we progress through the year, I get monthly reporting, so we monitor where we are trending. If we are trending a little higher on one element, we manage other elements of the budget accordingly.

I can tell you, when you're looking at some of these costs, say someone is acting on my behalf if I am away from the office, it gets charged into this but maybe budgeted for their time in another group like infrastructure or local government. There is a little bit of crossing between the different branches when you are getting into actual recording. I don't want to get into that level of detail, but that's the type of thing that can drive this, but we manage the budget overall and we made sure that we did come in within the budget for the year. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move on to travel and transportation. This area has seen a steady budget of \$480,000 for the last four fiscal years, yet the average for the branch has been a mere \$260,000. I was wondering how this \$487,000 travel budget was put together. Do you have any justification for this amount, and do you foresee the branch actually expending that entire \$470,000 in travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, for that level of detail, I will ask my deputy to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we manage on the overall budget, so we make sure that overall it comes in. One of the things that I have initiated since I have been with CGS is that we have someone working on right now what we call a zero-based budget model. We're actually doing a review of the past three years to build a bottom-up budget so that we can develop those types of line item details.

Historically, you know yourself from working in Finance, you kind of start with prior year budgets and go from there and it's incrementally adjusted. This exercise that we are doing at CGS is going to kind of rebalance based on where our historic spend is.

Again, overall we definitely have been utilizing our budgets, meet our full budget, and have been managing within

our budget and delivering on our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I am glad to hear that the department is moving towards zero-based budgeting and actually creating a budget that is really accurate and justifiable. Did the department use that exercise when creating the 2018-19 budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we didn't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I compared the 2018-19 to the 2017-18 budget, it seems that almost all of the different items are budgeted for the exact same amount. Are all of these other expenses just recycled from the prior year's budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think it's quite evident that it has been following prior year's budget, but our department, as we said, is looking at getting more accurate budgeting in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I'm sorry to hear it, although. What you're asking us to do here today is pass this budget that you're requesting, yet you have done no real justification or put any effort into justifying these amounts. You were just asking simply to please provide us the same budget that you had last year, and it's clear that you have been unable to actually spend your budgets. I find it really difficult to take this budget seriously when you're asking us to pass it without actually putting any effort into creating your budgets. That will be it for my questions for this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I didn't hear a question. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials. Good day.

First of all, in terms of procurement for this upcoming fiscal year, what kind of trends will we see in order for the government to save money within the department? (interpretation ends) In English, what types of improvements and innovations will be happening within the procurement function of CGS in this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're constantly trying to improve our procurement policies to ensure that it's fair and equitable to all

those who go through our procurement department. We are making some improvements and changes in that department. Maybe if I can get Ms. Kimball to elaborate a bit on those through you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I joined CGS a couple of years ago, one of the first things we did is identify that we have not been represented on the national FPT group in the procurement realm. We are now actively engaged in the procurement partnerships with the other jurisdictions to identify other procurement methods. Over this past year we introduced something called best and final offer, which is a type of RFP, and we have identified some other methods that we're going to be exploring and piloting as we move forward. We are definitely focusing on the concept of value for money and in trying to evolve some of our procurement tools to ensure that we are getting the best value for Nunavummiut. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and staff. In terms of that concept, value for money, other than going through contracting activity line by line, what types of indicators are used by the department to try to gauge whether they're getting value for money or if, heaven forbid, we're paying a government price for goods and services? I would just like to understand the internal workings of that procurement function in terms of the

oversight. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We follow very tight guidelines when it comes to procurement and ensuring fairness and best expenditure for the kind of service we are receiving. For details, if I could have Ms. Kimball respond to that portion of it, Mr. Chairman, through you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things we have put in over this past year is I do have regular meetings now with the head of procurement and we talk about some of the major contracts that are coming through, in particular what our strategy is going to be. Some of the signs we look for is are we getting a lot of bidders, what is the range of the bids that we're receiving because, if there are substantial gaps in the ranges, that kind of signals issues that could be there. We are doing post-mortem walkthroughs of bids that don't receive competitive bidding, why is it that vendors or proponents may not be bidding, and what are some of the barriers that they're experiencing, things like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support them in their efforts.

(interpretation ends) I would like to ask a few questions about consumer affairs.

It's not a very large part of the department, but I feel it's a very important one. What type of initiatives is the consumer affairs part of the department going to focus on in this fiscal year? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our Consumer Affairs department is always trying to make improvements and changes where it is necessary, and there will be some changes or improvements. If I can have Ms. Kimball elaborate a bit on that through you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Definitely one of our key focuses is on educating the public and making sure people are informed, to get the public communicating with us when they see things. Recently we did some work with the cheque-cashing policy. We know some people receive mailers for payday loans and things like that. When we see those activities occurring in the territory, we proactively kind of respond to that and try to develop some educational response material for that, and then look if there's anything further we should be doing. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A few headings were mentioned; payday loans, cheque-cashing fees. What other types of things is the Consumer Affairs Division working on in this present

fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are some of the main ones that we're working on. We're also working in the lotteries department, trying to ensure that the lotteries are well maintained and work with the municipalities and communities in dealing with the lottery programs that are out there, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on. In terms of the human resource function of the department, is this the correct time to ask? I believe this is the correct time. What is the picture right now within the department in terms of capacity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, we're always trying to improve the capacity in our department, but right now we have about a 37 percent vacancy rate across our department, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the situation, you have a 37 percent vacancy rate. Is that a long-standing vacancy rate? Is your vacancy rate declining? If not, what do you have planned to make things better within the department in terms of human resource

capacity? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately the 37 percent vacancy rate is not decreasing at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are the reasons that have been identified for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They vary in range. Some of them are due to salary ranges and the ability to fill some of the positions out there. We have some salary ranges in some of the departments or in some of the positions that don't pay as well as some other parts of the country or some other departments. That's one of a few other concerns we have that we're constantly trying to improve on, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I sense a bit of frustration there in terms of being able to attract the talent that we need. What specific positions are we talking about here in terms of which positions are we not currently competitive with in terms of the salaries that we offer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In short it's in the management end, the engineering end, the professional end, IT; mainly that sector, that level, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the timeline or what is the process for getting that problem fixed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the questions from my colleague. We have to work with other departments that deal with HR and so on. We're working with them to try to decrease the number of vacant positions we have and try to make the positions that are vacant more lucrative and better for the people out there looking for work in that field. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suspect then; I know the answer to this question, but I may be wrong. What is holding us back from offering more money for the positions that we can't seem to fill? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Maybe he could give me the answer.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, we have issues in all departments, I believe. In our department in particular, we have to try to deal with increasing pay and benefits for positions that we are advertising for and we try to deal with that with the appropriate departments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Keeping along the human resource topic, is the department currently experiencing any issues related to...? Are there any patterns of workplace harassment, toxic workplace, bullying accusations? Without, of course, talking about it in a way that would interfere with a person's privacy or rights, is there a pattern of any of these types of things coming up within the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Yes, there are patterns out there. There are pockets and our department is working to deal with them. We are taking that very seriously. We should have absolutely zero tolerance for bullying or harassment of any kind in any workplace, and our department is no exception. Of course, unfortunately we run into the issues of bullying and harassment. We are trying to deal with that as quickly as possible. We do have zero tolerance when it comes to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I completely agree. These types of issues are very serious. In terms of the pocket that you refer to, how much information can you share with the members here in terms of understanding how widespread of a problem this is within the department? Are there numbers of investigations or is there any to give us a picture of whether it's very small or whether it's something more widespread? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, I guess I could put it this way: it is not a widespread issue through the department, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** That's good to hear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of how the department handles things like harassment and bullying, how do the department's procedures compare to other government departments? Is there a standardized approach to this and is CGS using the same approaches as their sister departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We follow the same policies and procedures as the government as a whole. We don't operate independent of that. We encourage all of our employees to report it to whomever they are comfortable with, and we follow the same policies and procedures as the

government as a whole, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, on the human resource topic, when it comes to the department's Inuit Employment Plan, how many Inuit does the department anticipate recruiting in this fiscal year in terms of getting Inuit into those positions that are hard to fill or maybe technical in nature? I understand that there are quite a lot technical jobs within the department. When it comes to these technical jobs, is there any plan to set up a program or offer a course or anything that would help Inuit get into those jobs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department is working within the current GN programs to train as many beneficiaries and northerners as possible to get into these technical jobs.

We also work with the University of Manitoba, for example, in trying to get first placement and priority placement of any Inuit who want to get into the engineering part of the field. In turn, in that program, actually, we offer people from the University of Manitoba to apply for summer student placement with the GN. It is kind of an exchange thing. That seems to be working well.

We're always looking out there to see if there are any beneficiaries and northerners who would like to enter into any of the technical, engineering and other fields that could work in our

department, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Community and Government Services. Directorate. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question: there was recently a tabled document on May 25 of a Government of Nunavut RFP for a feasibility study of the Rankin Inlet water infrastructure and treatment. When was the last study done on Iqaluit's water system, utilidor and wastewater system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information. That's the accountability of the City of Iqaluit. That's their accountability and responsibility. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got some more questions along that line, but I'll wait until the local government services section. I would like to just jump on what Mr. Main was just talking about with regard to HR.

Community and Government Services has the position that there are a number of arm's-length entities that you guys deal with: your sports and recreation, NAM, the MTO. There are a number of different organizations that you have staff working directly with these outside government agency entities. If there's any type of employee disciplinary process associated with a conflict of personalities, who would have the oversight over any type of a conflict between employees from your



department and those arm's-length organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the question and thank you. On that, it really comes down to what the issue is and where the issue is. It becomes difficult to answer that way, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it's difficult to answer and I'm thinking of a specific example where it is a very complicated question, never mind an answer. I'm trying to think of a way to pose the question in a matter that I don't break anyone's confidence. I think, from an HR standpoint, I guess I can go at it this way: what type of oversight would you have if there is a management style issue with one of the organizations that you're associated with that may impact the relationship directly with one of your staff members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It makes it somewhat less confusing. I appreciate your attempt to try to deal with it, but it varies so much. We deal with the Municipal Training Organization, municipal associations, and so many other organizations that are out there and we have different contractual obligations and commitments with each one. Again, it

would depend on who the individual is, what kind of contractual arrangements we have with them, and who the individual or individuals would be reporting to. We would work with them through that to deal with the issue that needs disciplinary action. It may even be a case where it would have to be worked with a different department than us. I hope that makes it a little clearer as mud. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Community and Government Services. Directorate. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions on this item Mr. Main touched on earlier about the *Consumer Protection Act*. We did pass amendments in 2007 and some of the amendments were concerning cheque-cashing fees, government cheques, and other matters. I'm just wondering how the department has been communicating the new regulations to retailers and other entities in Nunavut on cheque-cashing policies. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate my colleague for the question. I believe our department has been communicating with the entities in the municipalities that do cheque cashing in the communities to make sure that they are aware of the new policies and changes to them, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one more question: is your department planning on introducing any other amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* during the life of the Fifth Assembly and, if so, what specific amendments are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't anticipate any changes in that at this time, but that's not to say something might come up within the next three years that requires changing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Community and Government Services. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not quite sure how I'm going to pose this question, but there's the (interpretation ends) social media (interpretation) and through it, there are sell/swap advertisements and sometimes what is sold is in poor condition. Where would those individuals go if they're not happy with their purchase because of the condition of it or because of the poor quality of it? People are selling snowmobile parts and so on. There are quite a few people from Nunavut who have lost quite a bit of money by not getting the product that they had purchased. I don't believe it's under the (interpretation ends) Department of Community and Government Services. Maybe he can give us advice on where to go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my only question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you

very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know exactly where you're coming from, and we do hear about purchases made and a purchaser not getting the products that they paid for. We're not responsible for it, but the people have to be aware. It's not under our department and I don't know where they might go to complain. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. There were a couple of other members that had raised their hands again. I'll use my discretion if they are on a different subject matter under Directorate. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have HR and Inuit employment related questions which I figured would be best pointed towards the Directorate. I'll start with your Inuit Employment Plan on page 218 of the business plan.

Under the priorities for 2017-18, the first bullet, the Department of CGS indicated that it will "Create individualized training plans for Inuit employees." Under the status, it states that "The department has requested that Directors complete training and development plans for their staff." Yet, "There is no current data collected on the number of training and development plans" that were actually completed. CGS had decided to complete "...a demo phase with a cloud-based workflow tracking software program called Halogen that can track the completion of training and development plans." The last sentence states that "The department is currently looking at procurement of the software."

My question is: why is CGS moving towards a workflow tracking software to ensure that senior management of the department is actually completing the Inuit employment training plans for the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to get over this cold.

Mr. Chairman, through you, on that issue, if I could have Ms. Kimball respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you can see on the previous page, CGS has 425 employees and is growing to 452 employees next year. Given that, that is a lot of manual tracking, so we recognized that our performance management needs to be automated. We implemented the tool from a performance management basis two years ago and now we are rolling out the training and development components of it.

We're actually also looking at a GN-wide potential solution. There is a leave and attendance module that is currently under implementation with GN Finance that will be rolled out this fall. With that, we would have the licensing to be able to roll out for the rest of GN. Automated tracking of this creates a better tool of accountability than manual and that way we can see how we are progressing and measure ourselves and measure our outcomes. We think that's a critical

component to seeing this through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move to the next bullet in the 2017-18 priorities and it is regarding restricted competitions. The status states, "The department has used restricted competitions in situations where local candidates were used to fill the positions." I was wondering: how many restricted competitions did CGS put out in 2017-18 and how many were actually successful? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately we don't have that data. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I will have to follow up that question at a later date. I will move on to the final priority for 2017-18 and it states, "CGS will encourage and support employees enrolled" in the leadership program. It states that "The department successfully participated [in] the following programs: Emerging Leaders (EL) Series...Senior Manager (SM) Series...and the Supervisor Series (SUP2)..." I was wondering: how many Inuit participated in each of those three different programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. A friendly reminder to my colleagues: when you are reading off of a script, be considerate

of the interpreters and slow down when you are speaking. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In specifics of Inuit, around three. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked: how many Inuit participated in each of those programs? Is it three Inuit in each of those programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be total. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question. The Department of CGS has filled 3 out of the 17 target positions. I was wondering: what are the 17 positions that CGS has identified as target Inuit employment positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Ms. Kimball answer that question through you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the details

position by position. As you can see from the Inuit Employment Plan chart on page 218, it is broken down between admin, paraprofessional, professional, and senior management. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last Inuit Employment Plan question is regarding your priorities in 2020-21. The first bullet at the top of page 221 indicates that the department will "Create an internal internship program within" the Department of CGS to add more Inuit employment opportunities. I think this is a great opportunity for Inuit to take advantage of paraprofessional and professional level positions before eventually making their way up into management. I was wondering why it's such a long-term priority and why isn't it being considered in 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is. It's something our department is working on and thriving on every day. Any time we see an opportunity to train and to get Inuit into these positions, our department jumps at it. It's something we constantly thrive to do in our department, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Directorate. Second time around, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Regarding the cheque-cashing fees, I would like to give the minister an opportunity to maybe mention or briefly summarize the changes in cheque-cashing fees that are being communicated to Nunavut retailers by the consumer affairs folks in terms of what is allowed, what is not allowed, and what they should be charged in terms of these cheque-cashing fees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bear with us for a second; we're just trying to find the exact number, if it is findable, a couple of seconds, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you for your patience, Mr. Chairman. We did have it, Mr. Chairman. We do have it again. I really do need a computer IT guy with me. Thank you for your patience.

"The cheque cashing fee for a government cheque drawn on an account of a government agency or a local government body shall be no higher than \$3 in the case of a cheque with a face value of \$1,000 or less; or 2% of the face value of the cheque in all other cases." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the procedure if a consumer in Nunavut believes that they have been over-charged when it comes to cheque-cashing fees? Who do they go to, and has the department received any of these

types of complaints to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We encourage them to contact our department or an MLA who would most definitely contact our department, but to date, since this new policy has been enforced, we haven't had any complaints that we are aware of, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Community and Government Services. Directorate. Total Branch. \$12,457,000. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) J-5. Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, my questions are going to be regarding page 3 of the minister's opening comments where he talked about the MTO providing training to municipalities. The MTO organization has been around quite a few years now, and in the early stages it was more hands-on where trainers went to the community and trained employees or they were brought to regional centres and programs were done there, but it seems now that it has moved to more of an online type of training. I'm just wondering if they could explain the effectiveness of this program compared to the old way of doing it and if it's working well with the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department went this way and it seems to be working to the best of our knowledge, Mr. Chairman. It saves a lot of funds. We haven't heard of too many issues or any issues regarding not being able to train on it. If there are cases where we can train online and train staff online, we get a lot more participants than if they would have to travel. Some of them aren't able to travel or not able to travel to the same facility at the same time. It has its benefits to being able to train online and where they can't and the training has to be done regionally or territorially, the MTO takes those into account and then does the training following those guidelines and parameters. There doesn't seem to be any major concerns the way it's running right now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again on the MTO training, does the department keep any kind of stats or any kind of record of the number of communities that are accessing these training programs, the number of communities, and how many people in each community? Are they keeping these kinds of stats and, if so, are we able to see these stats and ensure that our communities are accessing this MTO training? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Mr.

Chairman, yes, we do track that. It's one of the things that we do track. That information is available and I would be more than happy to share it with my colleagues, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his commitment on providing that information.

To change the subject, I want to talk now about mobile equipment block funding for a few minutes. This came out I think it was in 2009-2010, when the government decided to go with block funding municipalities for their mobile equipment. Back in the day I really did think it was a good idea and I wasn't sold on the amount that communities get. To me, it was okay if you had all the equipment up to date. "Now here's your money for replacing that equipment over time."

If you're in a community where everything you had is 30 years old or 20 years old, like Sanikiluaq was, it was very hard to catch up. That is the situation we are in. This winter there have been several occasions where we only had a D6 to plow snow. That's not acceptable, I don't think. How does the government work with hamlets to ensure that they have enough equipment to do the work that is required in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. I recall sitting in this very seat when we introduced the Mobile Equipment Fund. At the time the department saw that they were getting one bulldozer or a loader or a grader in a community at a time. At the time it was introduced, it gave an opportunity for communities to be able to purchase their own mobile equipment at their leisure. I could not agree more that it was okay for some communities whose equipment wasn't so old.

We are finding now too that there comes a point where some communities could end up with surplus in the mobile equipment because they don't have as many roads to plow, clear snow, and grade. To use my colleague from Arviat North, he has a community where they don't have as many roads and then another community with kilometres and kilometres of roads, but they are getting the same amount of money for mobile equipment.

Our department is looking at that very closely right now. In fact we are reviewing it to see where we could make changes to improve it so that there is more mobile equipment funding available for the communities with more roads. I'll leave it at that where we're looking at revamping it and hopefully in the 2019-2020 budget, some of those changes, if not all those changes, will be reflected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sanikiluaq is a community now with just about a thousand people and we do get a lot of snow because of our location. On a good day we've got

two pieces of equipment for moving snow and one of them has been broken down all winter. We are down to a D6 and a loader that has been down a few times, and another loader that barely runs. To me, the amount of equipment we have is just not adequate. Are you aware of that situation in Sanikiluaq, and what options are you giving the community in order to increase the amount of equipment they have? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, we're mostly aware of the situations of the municipalities and their struggles with snow removal and mobile equipment. In Sanikiluaq in particular we haven't received any correspondence from the municipality in regard to the needs of more snow removal equipment, but it is something that seems to be trending throughout the territory, not right across the board but there are some communities like Sanikiluaq and others that need more snow removal equipment, especially on a year where you get a huge dump of snow.

I know that when I was watching the discussions that were held here a few weeks ago with the auditor, they were talking about snow removal and clearing snow from infrastructure and stuff like that. It is hard to do when you have only one D3 and three days of blizzards. You barely get enough time to remove snow, never mind remove it to appropriate places. Yes, we're aware of those situations, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Community and Government Services. Local

Government Services. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, welcome to the minister and his officials.

I have a question related to a matter on page 3 of your opening comments. It talks about the winter capital planning workshop for municipal SAOs. How many people attended this planning workshop? That is my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Almost all of the municipal SAOs attended the workshops. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The SAOs receive training and some of them change on an annual basis or we have seen that they change after so many years. How many Inuit SAOs do you have? I would like to get a better understanding and hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that kind of information on hamlet SAOs or hamlet employees. They hire their own employees. I don't know exactly how many Inuit SAOs are employed by the hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To move on to my second question, in the third paragraph on page 4 of your opening comments, it refers to preventative maintenance and lifecycle renewal initiatives to provide longer lasting buildings. Here I am talking about hamlet offices. What are the department's positions on this issue and has this been discussed by your officials? Some hamlet offices are well past their expected lifecycles, whether that involves steel or other materials to ensure long life. My question is whether these types of discussions have taken place in the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In previous years buildings were largely left alone until renovations were required. For damage such as broken or blown out windows, it took a fairly long time for the repair work to trickle down. This included areas where caulking or insulation work was required. When drafts occurred due to lack of repairs, it led to a faster deterioration of the buildings.

For government-owned buildings or facilities, whether they are schools or other facilities, we have asked that equipment is monitored so that they are maintained in good condition by cleaning furnaces as required, inspecting windows for drafts, and to ensure that replacement parts are installed as required. That is the present practice of



maintaining facilities such as our schools or offices.

With proper maintenance, we can increase the lifecycle of these facilities, especially through mould prevention initiatives to ensure that mould infestation doesn't occur. That has been our focus and to say it in English, it is called (interpretation ends) preventative maintenance. (interpretation) If we follow that principle, it ensures that our facilities are kept in good condition so they can be used for longer periods of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for the response on that issue. To elaborate further on that question, I want to ask about extending the lifecycle of buildings, if the charter would be identified. Will you bring up a southern contractor or will the department use regional staff to oversee this initiative so that the money is spent wisely? I am asking the question so that I may understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Wherever possible, for these types of activities, we try to hire qualified people to conduct these inspections and to recommend repairs. We do our best to hire Nunavut residents as a priority, but if it's impossible to find someone within Nunavut, then we will hire southern inspectors on an as-needed basis. We try to limit that as much as possible when

inspections can be done in-house in Nunavut, which is our priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to another matter and if my question isn't applicable to the page we are reviewing, then you can stop me.

Yesterday a question was raised on the devices that hunters bring with them on the land and they are called (interpretation ends) SPOT devices (interpretation) in English. In thinking about this, more people travel out on the land when spring arrives. Families tend to take this time to go on the land. How does the department deal with emergencies or accidents? Can SPOT devices be used by families that are planning to go on the land? Do SAR teams provide the devices or are they only available for daily hunting trips? To ensure I understand, that is my question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for asking about that, Emiliano. Anybody can request a SPOT device. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis in the different communities, although different organizations may be tasked with the responsibility. Sometimes it is the local SAR group that has the SPOT devices while others have the hamlet office providing the devices. These devices are available for anyone to use.

Perhaps if I can state this tidbit, we are looking at updated models as they continually improve them. We will have new equipment available that we will be sending out to the communities.

Nonetheless, to reiterate, the SPOT devices can be picked up by anyone and the only requirement is to return the device when no longer using it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. These are worthy of our support to assist Nunavummiut. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his very good response. For people going on the land, whether or not they are a family, I urge all Nunavummiut to ask about these SPOT devices while planning their trips.

Another question I have is related to a second issue on page J-5, which is the page we are asking questions on. The department's Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Policy expired on December 31, 2012. How will this policy be updated or renewed? What are your plans for that? Hopefully I was being clear there, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. To elaborate further on the search and rescue aspect, Mr. Chairman, if that is fine by you, as long as the SPOT devices are available within the community, we ask that hunters use them.

If someone doesn't have their own personal device, they can borrow the devices for their hunting trip as all communities now have these SPOT devices available. All that is required are batteries to run them. If we can lower the number of searches and just rescue people in trouble, it makes everything a lot safer. This really simplifies the situation when no search is required and it conserves the limited fuel for actual searches for people in trouble, which is much safer as well.

When you have the SPOT device, there are many ways to communicate distress. If you are able to use the device, please use it during your trips. You should borrow one from other hunters or from designated places that have them because they allow for just a rescue activity as opposed to searchers enduring rough weather to search for parties in trouble. We urge everyone to use the devices.

To Mr. Qirngnuq's other question, we are currently working on the details. Once the plans are finalized and preparations are completed, we will be able to introduce them. However, we are still trying to determine where we will go and how we will deal with it, which is what he asked about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are they preparing just that policy or are you working on all the policies? There is more than one policy. Is it only some policies that are being amended, and have they been completed or not? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. We're reviewing all of the policies that need to be amended or revised. We're working on all of them, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's clearer now. Thank you. Another question I have is on page 204 of the business plan. I'll read what it states in English. (interpretation ends) "Community Development," (interpretation) what exactly does that mean? I would like clarification on that if the minister can explain that for my information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to give an opportunity for Mr. Seeley to respond to that, this being his first session with COW. If I can, through you, welcome Mr. Seeley. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The line on page 204 regarding Community Development that refers to the Community Development Branch is the budget for the upcoming year.

Community Development is our branch that works with the various municipalities on their programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second issue is on local government services, such as community support initiatives. When you add up the various proposals submitted by hamlets, I'm wondering that since the cost of everything has increased over the past five years or so, does the operational funding to hamlets also increase or does it remain the same over these many years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the funding that Mr. Qirngnuq is referring to, it is used for community support through CGS. They are not given to the community. If we need to help a community, if we have to look at their financial situation, or if there is an invitation to visit the hamlet, this funding is used. It is not given to the hamlet council. It's used for our staff if they're invited or if they have to review the hamlet council's financial situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get clarification and this will be my last question. It's in regard to what was

expended last year and what's going to be used next year. Is there going to be a change in the numbers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's not going to be a change. We will be using the same amount as last year. We believe that it's going to be enough and that's why it hasn't changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where to start? I'll go back to my question when I was talking about an RFP for municipal services, the utilidor and water infrastructure and treatment. I realize that you guys don't have the information directly of when the last study was done here in Iqaluit, but I'm probably going to say it has been some time. The reason I say that is there have been and I know there have been some investments in, for example, I believe there's a couple million dollars invested in the Happy Valley utility project a few years back that that project was just completed.

I'll just give you a bit of context. I'm going through an issue with the section of my constituency, specifically Happy Valley, that residents are having a lot of challenges with freeze-ups and there have been sewer backups and a number of different initiatives. I was speaking to the minister wearing his other hat with

the housing corporation the other day about this. There are also some Nunavut Housing properties in that area.

The utilidor system across the city of Iqaluit is very old and it's failing more and more, putting a lot of pressure on the City of Iqaluit, which is the only tax-based, revenue generating community in the territory as the capital city. I know there was an investment a few years back in Resolute Bay with their utilidor. For some reason a number around \$20 million is sticking in my head. I could be off base on that. Please don't quote me, but I think it was a fairly substantial amount of money.

When I look at the revenue that the city is able to bring in, with competing interests and different infrastructure, and as the minister responsible for sport, there has probably been a lot of activity on your part with celebrating the pool and the aquatic centre that we have here in Iqaluit, but there are core municipal needs, not just roads but I think the utilidor is something that's very high, obviously, on my call list right now.

I realize I'm using up a lot of my time with my preamble, but what avenues are available to the City of Iqaluit? I know the Municipal Funding Program Policy has expired already, but what avenues are available to the City of Iqaluit to access special needs funds? If there was a feasibility study on the water infrastructure or treatment here in Iqaluit, I'm sure it would highlight the dramatic need for an updated utilidor system.

With the climate change dollars that we're talking these days, with the shifting in the permafrost, it's creating a

lot of the challenges that the city is having. There have got to be monies available through all these climate change pots to be able to put in a more modern utilidor system in the city of Iqaluit. What options are available or what discussions have you had with the City of Iqaluit specifically with regard to utilidor infrastructure? Thank you for allowing me my long-winded question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you for eating up your 10 minutes.

>>*Laughter*

I might ask you for clarification for the next five.

Mr. Chairman, all kidding aside, we understand the frustration and the fight the city has with trying to maintain an utilidor system. It's a struggle. My community that I'm responsible for struggles with it every day in Rankin Inlet also. There are options out there. They do get funding out there. There is federal funding that they do get directly, gas tax funding, and so on. There are other funding opportunities out there that they could apply for.

Maybe, Mr. Chairman, through you, I could have my deputy elaborate a bit on some other options, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the past two years we have formed a much stronger relationship with the City of Iqaluit,

meeting with them several times a year to review their needs.

For the past two years they have provided for us their list of planned infrastructure needs that they have passed at their council meetings. They have identified to us over \$100 million of projects that they have on their plate. We have worked closely with them to get them funding. With the wastewater system, the solid waste system, I think they have accessed in the past two years over \$15 million of federal funding through us working with them.

We continue to work with them and stay engaged with the federal government to identify potential programs. As we see opportunities, we do communicate that to them as opportunities as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and deputy minister for the response. I look forward to further communications with the city and council and look forward to more avenues being explored and opportunities taken advantage of.

I did mention somewhere in my last question that the Municipal Funding Program Policy expired at the end of April. What is the status? I notice in the business plan it doesn't talk about renewing these policies and there's a number of them.

If the Chair will allow, I'll just go through a little bit of a list. The Sports and Recreation Grants and Contributions Policy expired last March. The NAMIX Grants and Contributions Funding Policy

expired last October. The NAM Contribution Policy expired last December. Like I had mentioned, the Municipal Funding Program Policy expired just this recent April.

I don't see anywhere in the business plan of looking at updating these policies. I'm just wondering what the status is on them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the details on those issues, maybe if I could have Ms. Kimball respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number of those are well underway. With the sports and rec, NAMIX, and NAM, those are moving forward. We're also taking a look at the volume of policies we have and seeing where we can consolidate and streamline to be a little bit simpler for folks to understand.

The Municipal Funding Program is a very complex program. I think we're going to have to take that into phases and not try to meet everybody's needs the first go-around. We've had a number of meetings, I think, just within the past two months. We had meetings in Rankin Inlet with NAM and with the SAOs.

We have crafted a business case that will go in for the 2019 cycle. We're in the process of kind of gathering the comprehensive ask and piecing that out into a proposed phased approach

because this has been a long-standing program. It hasn't been reviewed for quite some time and we want to make sure we do it right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to touch on my colleague Mr. Lightstone's question with regard to your budget forecasts, when I'm looking at the municipal funding forecast, it's basically staying the same for the next couple of years, and then actually looking at decreasing... . Sorry. Those are actual expenditures in 2016-17. There's a small decrease in the main estimates this year under the Municipal Funding Program, very negligible, mind you. It is still showing a decrease, but more or less staying the same. If I look at the budget forecast in the main estimates, it has got the same amount year after year.

I am anticipating, with this policy review and these numbers coming through, that next year, as Mr. Lightstone suggests, there is a little bit more work put into analyzing the actual budgetary needs with the updated policy, just to get confirmation on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is what we are looking at and that is what we are anticipating. I believe you will see changes in some of the numbers once we have gone through these policies. Maybe Ms. Kimball can elaborate a little bit on that front, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do want to assure the member that there has been a lot of analysis done already and that is going to feed into this 2019-2020 business case that we are going to submit for that fiscal year. There is a lot of work ongoing and a lot of work that has already been put into this, but we want to make sure that we are reviewing that with our partners at the municipality and that is part of why we had these SAO workshops. We are communicating with NAM. We want to make sure that we are not just doing it from the Government of Nunavut's perspective but that we are getting solid feedback on it before we move forward. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to go into the business plan on page 207, both in the priorities from 2017-18 and into 2018-19. In 2017-18 it is regarding the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. In 2017-18 it stated that a development/planning working group was created, and then in 2018-19 it just states that they are working collaboratively with GN departments and the Nunavut Housing Corporation to implement objectives.

I know the minister has a very close relationship with the minister for the housing corporation, but at the same time maybe just a quick little snapshot of what type of work has been done by this working group on some of the objectives within the blueprint for action. I may probably get more detail from the minister of the housing corporation and

if he so wishes, I can wait until that time to get further detail, but what type of work has Community and Government Services and other departments, working with the housing corporation, on the objectives of the blueprint for action? That's final question, I think, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working collaboratively with the housing corporation. On our end, it is more dealing with planning and lands to ensure that there actually are lands available for housing in the communities. We work with the municipalities to ensure that if the housing corporation is going to build houses in communities, the planning, land, subdivisions, and stuff are there before the houses are built. That is more of the angle or side we are working with them on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to first ask about this issue related to the Hamlet of Hall Beach. While we're dealing with housing, the Department of Community and Government Services asked for and received a top 10 list of the capital items the community wanted. I have only received four items on the list so far, so I would like to first ask about the status of these four items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you

very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we talking about the priorities of Hall Beach? I don't have them in front of me or their status. I can't give you the status on each of the communities in Nunavut because I don't have that information in front of me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CGS was consulting with the community. I will list the four priorities. They were: a daycare centre, marine infrastructure, renewing hamlet equipment, and office renovations. Those were the four priorities I just wanted to mention. Where is the request? I just wanted to ask if the department will respond to the community's priorities and I will just conclude with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He spoke about the community's four priorities, including marine infrastructure, a daycare, and office renovations. When we get the priorities, we work with the municipalities and the communities, as well as the appropriate department for the community's request. For example, if they're requesting marine infrastructure, CGS wouldn't be responsible, but they would work with the appropriate department. For a daycare, we would work with another department.

It's very difficult for me to state exactly what the status is because there are 25 communities and over 800 priorities all together, which is substantial. I'm not deliberately trying to be vague, but that's exactly how it is. That's why I can't provide you the information you are requesting, but once I have the status of the community's priorities, I will provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that was clear.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Local Government Services. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask who the members are of the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee. (interpretation) That's my first question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation) Thank you for your patience. There are many committee structures. They consist of representatives from NAM, mayors, as well as the government. We currently have a mayor as the chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee ask the municipalities what their capital needs are in each of the communities?



Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, that's exactly how it works. The chairperson works with the mayors and government officials. They work together on community priorities. They follow their priorities and procedures, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. With respect to the requests of the two communities that I'm representing, can the committee provide that information to us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is my colleague talking about or requesting? I would just like to get that clarified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The community wish list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): He's talking about the wish lists of the communities he represents. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. We have all the ICSPs for the communities and they're on the website. If you want support or help with

where to find it, we can help you locate it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. My colleague from Sanikiluaq had talked about heavy equipment that is old. Some communities get a lot of snow and they would have to use their heavy equipment less often for snow removal if they had snow fences in their communities. It would extend the lifespan of the heavy equipment if there were (interpretation ends) snow fences (interpretation) put up because they're very useful from what I have seen.

In Coral Harbour we get a lot of snow in parts of the community. During a blizzard last year, even snowmobiles were being driven on top of the homes because the snow was so high. It would have been better and there would have been less snow if there were snow fences across from the community.

Perhaps you can install snow fences in the communities that get a lot of snow, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't really see them now, although some exist. If the communities would like to see snow fences installed, they can put it in their ICSPs as a priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. The community of Naujaat's population is increasing rapidly with people moving in from different communities. It's one of the communities in Nunavut with rapid growth.

We are running out of space for our equipment, such as water and service trucks. They put in a request for a parking garage in that community and I believe that they will be getting a new, bigger vehicle this summer. What's the status of the request for a parking garage for Naujaat?

Also, the maintenance garage in Coral Harbour is very cramped for space and they will need a larger maintenance garage pretty soon. What is the status of it? Their request may have been submitted in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very important issue. When a vehicle is purchased, there needs to be a parking garage. Our officials have been travelling and visiting with hamlets across Nunavut and finding out what the priorities are of the communities. We would like to provide support to all of the communities. We will be meeting with the mayor of Naujaat and hamlet council to discuss their priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that response. Before the officials go to Naujaat or Coral Harbour, can you let us know ahead of time? I would appreciate knowing ahead of time before his officials come to those two communities. Thank you. That's my last question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree with you and if you want me to visit, invite me over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Local Government Services. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My first question is of course going to be a financial question and I'm hoping that the minister will be able to answer this for me.

Considering that the 2017-18 fiscal year is over, would you be able to provide me with what was the actual expenses were for the Local Government Services Branch for that fiscal year?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course we will be able to as soon as it's available. I would be more than happy to share it with my colleague. We don't have it with us, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry to hear that. I hope to find out that information as soon as you can. I know it's a simple FreeBalance report away. It's not that difficult to generate that information.

Considering that the ADM of Local Government Services, Mr. Seeley, is given the responsibility of this \$80 million budget, I'm assuming that he would know off the top of his head how much his branch had spent in 2017-18. Would the ADM be able to provide the minister with that information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have very hard-working staff in our department and my colleague will appreciate the many numbers and details that we try to keep on top of. At this time we don't have that detail of information, unless you want ballpark, Mr. Chairman, which I don't think my colleague is looking for. Like I said, I will provide the detailed number when we get it, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate my staff like Mr. Seeley who is working hard in community development. I'm only sorry we don't have that kind of detail that is being requested. I will provide it to my colleague as soon as we can get it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I'm asking is because if we look at the 2016-17 actuals, the branch had a total

expenditure of \$82 million. As the Minister of Finance indicated yesterday, he's unable to identify budgeted areas that have excess *tunnuq*, as Mr. Main had identified it as. Looking at that 2016-17 actual of \$82 million and you compare it to the budget, the branch actually lapsed \$3.4 million, which is 50 percent of CGS' lapsed budget for 2016-17. I definitely believe that this is an area that might have some historical overfunding issues.

I'm really hoping that with the responsibility of an \$80 million budget, the department will take that seriously and, moving into the future, will actually make more informed decisions when it comes to budget allocations. When we look at the program level in the business plans, it's identical year over to year, not for all of them but for a large portion of the programs in this branch.

My point is that we have funding issues. We have so many social issues that we need to address. If departments don't take their budgets seriously, we will never be able to afford to address them all. Once again, I really hope that the department will move in the right direction when it comes to budget formulation in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and spend our funds wisely.

I have no more questions, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time. Thank you.

**An Hon. Member:** Alright!

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) 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. Thank you.

(interpretation) I'm sorry. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Going back to the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 4 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's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Qirngnuq. Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Going to the orders of the day. Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

**Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder of the meetings

for tomorrow, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom, followed by a meeting of the Regular Caucus at eleven o'clock.

*Orders of the Day* for May 30:

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
19. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 7
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other

Matters

- Bill 4
- Bill 5

21. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Clerk. Well read. (interpretation) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 30, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:02*

# **Appendix – May 29, 2018**



# **Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

## ***Report on the Review of the 2018 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut - Climate Change in Nunavut***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
Spring 2018 Sitting**

### **Chairperson**

George Hickes

### **Co-Chairperson**

John Main

### **Members**

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

**[www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Introduction

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On March 13, 2018, the *2018 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut - Climate Change in Nunavut* was formally tabled in the House by the Honourable Joe Enook, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a hearing on the Auditor General's report from April 30, 2018, to May 1, 2018. The standing committee's hearing was televised live across the territory and was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Senior officials from the Department of Environment, the Department of Community and Government Services, the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Nunavut Housing Corporation appeared as witnesses on behalf of the Government of Nunavut during the standing committee's televised hearing.

In March of 2018, the Auditor General of Canada, his office's Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development and most of Canada's provincial Auditors-General released a "collaborative report" on climate change. This joint publication contained a number of Nunavut-specific references to the findings in the Auditor General's report to the Legislative Assembly on climate change, as well as his recent reports on climate change that were presented to the other territorial legislatures in Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The report included a formal response from the Deputy Ministers of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. The contents of the "collaborative report" were referenced on a number of occasions during the standing committee's televised hearing.

In recent years, the Auditor General of Canada has submitted a number of important reports to Parliament on topics of concern to this region of the nation, including civil aviation infrastructure in the North, the Nutrition North Canada Program and oral health programs for Inuit and First Nations. His upcoming fall 2018 report to Parliament is planned to include a chapter on "broadband in remote regions," which is a significant issue of concern to Nunavummiut. The standing committee applauds the Auditor General's ongoing commitment to reporting to Parliament on issues that affect the North.



## Observations and Recommendations

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### Issue: Government of Nunavut Action Plans and Related Matters

The *2018 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut - Climate Change in Nunavut* contained a total of 12 specific recommendations. These were formally responded to by the following departments and territorial corporations of the Government of Nunavut:

- Department of Environment: 2 recommendations
- Department of Community and Government Services: 4 recommendations
- Qulliq Energy Corporation: 1 recommendation
- Nunavut Housing Corporation: 5 recommendations

The responding entities formally agreed to all twelve of the Auditor General's specific recommendations. However, none of the responding entities presented formal action plans to implement the recommendations as part of their appearances before the standing committee during its televised hearing.

#### **Standing Committee Recommendation #1:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, include a copy of each responding entity's formal action plan to implement the recommendations contained in the *2018 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut - Climate Change in Nunavut*.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed description and breakdown of the activities and expenditures undertaken by the Department of Environment's Climate Change Secretariat during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, include a copy of the report on "energy use and greenhouse gas emission trends in the territory" that is referenced in paragraph 34 of the Auditor General's report.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed description of what specific findings concerning greenhouse gas emission estimates have been achieved by the "federal/territorial working group" that is referenced in paragraph 35 of the Auditor General's report.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, include a copy of the "assessment of climate change risks to Nunavut's mining sector" that is referenced in paragraph 45 of the Auditor General's report.

**Issue: *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change***

In December of 2017, the *First Annual Synthesis Report on the Status of Implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* was publicly released. The introduction to this report states that:

“In response to the critical and urgent need to take action on climate change, Canada’s First Ministers adopted the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* on December 9, 2016. This collaborative plan aims to reduce emissions, build resilience to a changing climate and enable clean economic growth. The *Pan-Canadian Framework* includes more than fifty concrete policy actions spanning the country and all sectors of the economy.”

The Government of Nunavut is a party to the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*, which states that:

“The Government of Nunavut recognizes the role of carbon pricing in the *Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change*. Given Nunavut’s particular circumstances, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut will work together to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory for its economy, communities and people including energy costs, and to develop solutions together. The Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada will also work together to assess the implications of carbon pricing in Canada on the cost of living in Nunavut. This will be an important consideration for future policy development. As outlined in the federal government’s benchmark, 100% of the revenues from carbon pricing will be retained by Nunavut.

Nunavut and the Government of Canada intend to collaborate in the following domains of priority to address climate change and advance clean growth: Nunavut and the Government of Canada will assess the economic and technical feasibility of electrification through hybrid power generation in Nunavut’s communities. Hybrid power generation would significantly reduce emissions while at the same time ensure that Nunavut’s isolated communities have reliable power. Nunavut and the Government of Canada will work together to develop a retrofit program to increase the energy efficiency of public and private housing. Investment in safe and energy efficient housing is a key component of building strong resilient communities in the Arctic.”

The March 2018 “collaborative report” on climate change that was released by Canadian Auditors-General noted that:

“... a key initiative in the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* is the use of carbon pricing. Carbon pricing is an economic mechanism intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Common forms of carbon pricing are a carbon tax and a cap-and-trade system.”

The December 2017 *First Annual Synthesis Report on the Status of Implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* states that:

“Work is underway to ensure carbon pricing applies across Canada. Some jurisdictions already have carbon pricing systems in place, while others are working to develop and implement pricing systems. The federal government also released a technical discussion paper to advance work on its backstop pricing system. Nunavut has been working closely with the federal government to study the impacts of carbon pricing on Nunavummiut. The study will support Nunavut’s policy decisions on carbon pricing and is expected to be complete in fall 2017. Nunavut is studying potential options to green government operations.”

In March of 2018, Bill C-74 was introduced in the House of Commons. Part 5 of the bill contains the proposed *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*.

In April of 2018, the Yukon government released a report titled *Carbon Pricing in the Yukon - Potential Impact Analysis*. The report indicates that “the modeling for this analysis was undertaken by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Finance Canada, in collaboration with the Government of Yukon.” A similar report for Nunavut became available for downloading from the website of the territorial Department of Finance on May 24, 2018, but has not been formally tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

On April 30, 2018, the Parliamentary Secretary to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change publicly stated in the House of Commons that:

“The pan-Canadian framework on Canada’s clean growth and climate action plan recognizes that the territories have unique circumstances, including a high cost of living, challenges with food security, and the emerging nature of their economies. We are working with Nunavut and the territories to consider carbon pricing in this context. We are committed to developing solutions that work for northern Canada.”

The Government of Nunavut’s recently-awarded *Request for Proposals for the Supply and Delivery of Bulk Refined Petroleum Products to all Regions and Communities in Nunavut* included a new requirement from previous years’ RFPs that required proponents to “... include their proposed anticipated rates for [a] ban on [the] use of Heavy Fuel Oil fee and [a] Carbon Tax.” The RFP indicated that, “Should these fees become a reality, the Petroleum Products Division [of the Department of Community and Government Services] agrees to adjust the successful proponent’s transportation and product costs accordingly, upon satisfactory review of the extent to which a HFO ban/limitation and/or Carbon Tax are implemented.” This provides a practical example of how carbon pricing may impact the territory.

## **Standing Committee Recommendation #2:**

**The standing committee recommends** that a copy of the joint federal-territorial study on carbon pricing that the *First Annual Synthesis Report on the Status of Implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* indicated was “expected to be complete in fall 2017” be formally tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the responsible Minister.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify its formal position on the proposed federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed update on the status of its work to study “potential options to green government operations.”

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed update on the status of its work to “assess the economic and technical feasibility of electrification through hybrid power generation in Nunavut’s communities.”

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed update on the status of its work to “develop a retrofit program to increase the energy efficiency of public and private housing.”

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify what specific renewable energy technologies are eligible for funding under the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s current Home Renovation Program.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut expand the use of tax credits and other incentives to encourage private homeowners and businesses to take measures to reduce their carbon footprints, including the installation of solar panelling and other renewable energy technologies.

**Issue: Federal Funding for Green Infrastructure, Climate Change and Renewable Energy Initiatives**

On January 3, 2018, the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations announced that her department would provide \$1.7 million to the Government of Nunavut between 2017 and 2021 to “implement climate adaptation actions” under the federal Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program.

On February 16, 2018, the federal Minister of Natural Resources announced a “call for proposals for the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities Program.” The announcement indicated that the program “will provide approximately \$220 million in funding for initiatives to reduce reliance on diesel fuel in rural and remote communities, the majority of which are Indigenous. This funding builds on more than \$53 million provided through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and is complemented by Infrastructure Canada’s \$400 million Arctic Energy Fund, which is specific to the territories to help improve energy security in the North by replacing or upgrading aging fossil fuel energy infrastructure.”

Table A2.18 of the February 28, 2018, federal Budget listed funding allocations for a number of green infrastructure, climate change and renewable energy initiatives, including:

- Green Infrastructure Bilateral Agreements;
- Canada Infrastructure Bank;
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience;
- Emerging Renewable Energy Technologies;
- Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities Program;
- Improving Indigenous Communities; and
- Arctic Energy Fund.

On April 25, 2018, the following exchange took place during the proceedings of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance:

**Senator Neufeld:** Then the Arctic Energy Fund of \$400 million is yours.

**Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities:** That is us.

**Senator Neufeld:** What’s that for?

**Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities:** That is to help the three territories reduce their diesel dependency. They have a lot of diesel dependent equipment at the end of lifecycle. It helps them to bring it up to speed so that they have more energy security. It’s divided up as \$150 million to Nunavut, \$150 million to the Northwest Territories, and the rest to Yukon.

**Senator Neufeld:** The Senate Energy Committee did a study of energy development in all three territories. We found that they were not nearing the end of their life. Some of those generation projects are way past the end of their life, like up to 50 years old. That will be delivered directly by this department with no matching funds. Is that correct?

**Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities:** No, there are matching funds. It's 75 per cent that we will pay up to, and the other 25 per cent will be by the territories or other proponents.

**Senator Neufeld:** By the territories or the communities.

**Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities:** Or the communities, yes.

**Senator Neufeld:** How in the world does a community of 150 people actually participate in renewing a generation project that's over 50 years old? Those communities are small and 150 people is probably large for a lot of them. Where would Nunavut or the Northwest Territories get the revenue from, even if it was the territory that had the share of the other 25 per cent?

**Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities:** We're working very closely with the three territories in understanding what their plan is for their integrated bilateral agreements, which have been signed with the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. They are advancing in their own planning framework on what projects are of a priority to them to be able to work with us to have that money approved and spent on projects meeting their needs.

**Senator Neufeld:** I am on the Energy Committee, so that's important to me. I would like you, if you could, provide to the clerk for all of us what projects have been funded so far. Where are you in that process? Are we actually doing something on the ground, or is everybody sitting in their offices looking at how to do this and all those kinds of things? In fact, last winter there was one community where their diesel generation system went down. I live in the North, so I realize it, but people living in the South don't realize that when it's 50 below it's a little chilly when your unit goes down for a week or two.

**Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities:** For the integrated bilateral agreements where this \$400 million is part of that process, the umbrella agreements were signed with both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories in March, so just last month.

**Senator Neufeld:** I am aware of that.

**Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities:** Right now they're in the process of determining what types of projects they want to be funded under these umbrella agreements and will be working with us. Our anticipated timelines are for all jurisdictions to give us, once they signed the agreements, their three-year plans by September. Some are working with us on an earlier time frame, which would be Northwest Territories, for example. They're working within their own governance processes. They need their own Cabinet approvals to submit different projects to make sure they're working within and understanding the priorities in their jurisdictions for projects themselves.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #3:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed description and breakdown of what proposals it has submitted to date for consideration under the federal Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program, the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program, the Emerging Renewable Energy Technologies Program, the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities Program, the Improving Indigenous Communities Program, the Arctic Energy Fund and Green Infrastructure Bilateral Agreements.

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed description and breakdown of the amounts of federal funding approved to date under the federal Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program, the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program, the Emerging Renewable Energy Technologies Program, the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities Program, the Improving Indigenous Communities Program, the Arctic Energy Fund and Green Infrastructure Bilateral Agreements.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed description and breakdown of how it has spent the federal funds received to date under the federal Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program, the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program, the Emerging Renewable Energy Technologies Program, the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities Program, the Improving Indigenous Communities Program, the Arctic Energy Fund and Green Infrastructure Bilateral Agreements.

**Issue:            Legislation and Annual Reporting**

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut (2004-2008), the government of the day introduced proposed new energy efficiency legislation on two separate occasions. The stated purpose of one of the bills was to “promote and assist in the reduction of fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency in Nunavut ... [through] prohibiting the sale or lease of energy devices in Nunavut that do not meet certain efficiency standards.” However, neither bill was passed into law.

Paragraph 89 of the Auditor General’s report indicates that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been “working to have the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* amended so that it could purchase power from third parties” and that it has been “developing an independent power producers policy.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #4:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut introduce legislation during the life of the 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly that would, at a minimum:

- Require the Government of Nunavut to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on its actions and expenditures related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, including actions and expenditures taken to implement territorial commitments made under any intergovernmental agreement, framework or analogous mechanism to which it is a party, including the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*; and
- Authorize the Government of Nunavut to make regulations concerning energy efficiency standards, the sale and lease of energy devices and related matters.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a detailed update on the status of the proposed amendments to the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* and the development of an “independent power producers policy.”



**Issue: Meeting Outcomes**

On February 3, 2017, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated jointly announced that the two organizations, in partnership with the Government of Canada, "... hosted three days of meetings to discuss building Nunavut's resilience to climate change. The meetings took place from January 31, 2017, to February 2, 2017, in Iqaluit." The announcement also indicated that, "Results from the meetings will directly support Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada in developing a Northern Adaptation Strategy, and will also help to plan funding and programs for northern communities. The GN's Climate Change Secretariat and NTI will use results and feedback from the meetings to help shape the territory's adaptation priorities for the coming years. A report on meeting results will be shared in the coming months."

The *2018 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut - Climate Change in Nunavut* indicates that the Department of Environment would be hosting "... a pan-northern meeting in March 2018 on permafrost hazard mapping. This will bring northern communities and government decision makers together to determine risks, opportunities, and recommendations to better manage and respond to permafrost thaw and other climate change risks. Best practices and lessons learned from this session will help inform future work conducted to address other identified risks. Additional work is scheduled to begin the development of climate change risk mitigation criteria for decision-makers."

The standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that reports on the activities and results of such meetings are publicly accessible.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #5:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, include a copy of the final report on the activities and results of the January 31, 2017 - February 2, 2017 meetings on climate change resilience that it jointly hosted with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, include a copy of the final report on the activities and results of the March 2018 pan-Northern meeting on permafrost hazard mapping.