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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Tununiq)

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(Quttiktuq)

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(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

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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(Baker Lake)
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Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
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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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, 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 Towntongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:34*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and members, good afternoon. Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Legislative Assembly, especially our elders in Nunavut. We are proud of you and welcome you.

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Premier Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 020 – 5(2):
Minister Absent from the House**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to

advise members that the (interpretation ends) Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation) will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week.

During her absence, Minister Savikataaq will be Acting (interpretation ends) Minister of Family Services (interpretation) and will respond to questions. I will be acting as the (interpretation ends) Government House Leader. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 021 – 5(2):
Increased Inuktitut Language
Funding for Public Servants**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good day to the residents of my community and Nunavummiut, as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, one of our government's priorities in *Turaaqtavut* is to continue to promote the Inuit language as the working language of the Nunavut public service.

As such, I am pleased to announce that our budget for Inuit language training for public servants will more than double in 2018-19. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is able to access this increased funding as part of the *Uqausivut Plan* administered by the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, my department will use (interpretation ends) Vote 4 (interpretation) funding to deliver more Inuktitut training courses for public

servants across Nunavut. In 2017-18 the department offered 21 Inuktitut courses to 159 participants in Iqaluit, Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Igloodik, Pangnirtung, and Rankin Inlet.

Training included three advanced and traditional Inuktitut terminology courses led by elders, an Inuktitut keyboarding and computing course, and beginner and intermediate Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun courses. In 2018-19 my department will expand the delivery of Inuktitut training at both the foundational and professional levels.

Mr. Speaker, we are continually developing the Inuktitut language training program curriculum and learning materials to better meet the needs of Nunavut's public servants. Our government is committed to offering Inuktitut language training for public servants as part of the implementation of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 022 – 5(2):
Kitikmeot Inspire Nunavut
Program**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Strategic Investments Program, in partnership with the Department of Family Services, recently funded a six-

month program aimed at developing entrepreneurial youth.

Following on prior successes in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq regions, this program was implemented in Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay between October 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018. Twenty-two young adults from these two communities participated in the program. Of those 22 participants, I am pleased to report that 11 are now pursuing business projects while, in addition, seven were able to gain employment using transferable skills.

Mr. Speaker, the department is pleased to make this announcement knowing that this investment in our youth has provided some members of the next generation with valuable tools to help them become an integral part of our economic future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 023 – 5(2):
Remembering Louie Kamookak**

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to remember Louie Kamookak, who passed away this past March.

Mr. Speaker, born in 1959 near Taloyoak, Kamookak dedicated his life to teaching youth in his hometown of Gjoa Haven where he taught school, and

to preserving and passing on traditional knowledge, culminating in the ultimate discovery of the lost Franklin ships and artefacts.

Mr. Speaker, Louie Kamookak was honoured by the Government of Canada's Polar Medal, the Inuit Heritage Trust Recognition Award, and last year both the Order of Nunavut and Order of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Louie is survived by his wife, Josephine, their five children and seven grandchildren. He was a passionate scholar of our northern history.

I just want to take a moment to remember him, along with the community of Gjoa Haven. Let us remember him for the incredible life that he had lived. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 024 – 5(2):
Mental Health Week**

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

Mr. Speaker, we celebrated National Mental Health Week in Canada earlier this month. In Nunavut our mental health teams throughout the territory joined the national call to speak up and "Get Loud" about mental health.

An Hon. Member: Hey!

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Mental health workers encouraged Nunavummiut to share our thoughts and struggles with people who are close to us, such as elders, friends, and family members, or with the professional mental health workers in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, mental health is about more than just seeking professional help in times of stress. It's important for all of us to remember that friends and families should support each other on a daily basis.

Nationally a week is set aside each year to allow us to promote and focus our thoughts and actions on mental health awareness.

Mr. Speaker, for the Department of Health, every week is mental health week. Community health representatives use community radio to promote positive coping skills, which include spending time with family and friends, eating healthy foods, being out on the land, getting enough sleep, getting involved with the community, and understanding that it is okay to talk about your feelings and to ask for help.

Nunavummiut can access mental health supports and services at their community health centre. Those who prefer anonymous support can call the Nunavut Kamatsiaqtut Help Line at 1-800-265-3333 or they can send a text to Crisis Services Canada at 1-833-456-4566.

Mr. Speaker, to tie in with the National Mental Health Week theme, I encourage all Nunavummiut to join me to "Get Loud" and talk about mental health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 025 – 5(2):
Completion of Installation of LED
Street Lights in Four Nunavut
Communities**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to rise in the House today to announce that QEC has successfully completed the replacement of conventional street lighting in four communities in Nunavut.

All of the street lights in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and Kugluktuk have been converted to light emitting diode, or LED, technologies with approximately 1,200 replacements in total. The installations began after the corporation replaced conventional street lighting in a portion of Iqaluit as a demonstration project to test the performance and benefits of LED street lighting.

Energy-efficient lighting technologies reduce the territory's energy consumption and further lower carbon emissions produced by electricity generation. The new street lights bring significant savings in maintenance costs since LED lights last five times longer than their conventional counterparts.

In addition to the environmental and financial benefits, LED street lights also offer improved public safety, as they

provide better illumination of the roads. Residents have taken to social media to thank the corporation for the installation of the new, brighter street lights.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for their financial contributions and continued support of the corporation's green initiatives. The QEC will continue to explore funding programs that will allow additional communities to gain the benefits of viable and cost-effective street lighting technologies that reduce our impact on the environment.

We are committed to providing Nunavummiut energy-efficient solutions that lessen the burden on non-renewable energy sources and reduce Nunavut's environmental footprint. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 026 – 5(2):
Nunavut Community Aquatic
Monitoring Programs Completed**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last winter I brought news of a new fisheries development and training program for Nunavummiut initiated by my department's Fisheries and Sealing Division.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program, or N-CAMP for short, is a program that is giving Nunavummiut the opportunity to be engaged as stewards of their fisheries

resources. This program is unique because the communities define the research and then participants go out on the land, or water, for training and collecting the data required for developing commercial fisheries and also data on water quality and fish health.

Mr. Speaker, N-CAMPs have now been completed in Igloodik, Coral Harbour, Iqaluit, Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, and Pond Inlet. N-CAMP has involved elders, youth, active harvesters, and scientists all working together to achieve a common purpose. We are very proud to report that 45 Inuit have successfully completed the program, many of whom are now employed in the fisheries or a related work field.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to particularly commend the community of Pond Inlet for its success in their developing turbot fishery. Pond Inlet fishers completed their N-CAMP in 2017 and since that time have been actively fishing for turbot just 15 minutes from their settlement. In addition, they now have the capacity to process their catch at their processing plant.

Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to the communities that have already completed the N-CAMP and to see their fisheries succeed and their concerns answered. More communities are enquiring about having an N-CAMP and we are working hard to secure funds to do so. We hope to see more N-CAMPs being held across the territory, as the program continues to be a central piece of our renewed Fisheries Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 043 – 5(2): A Call for Action on Mental Health

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Don't mind my voice today.

First of all, I want to wish my granddaughter a happy sixth birthday. She just turned six today.

>>Applause

I have never been home ever since she started having birthdays. It's the sixth year now I have never been home to celebrate with her, but I wish her a good afternoon and a good evening and hope she gets a lot of presents today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Good grandpa.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that not only deeply affects the residents of my community of Gjoa Haven but affects all residents of Nunavut and all indigenous peoples across this country: the devastating impacts of poor mental health.

Mr. Speaker, in order to address a deep-rooted problem, we must dig down to its source.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established in 2008 and its final reports were released in 2015.

A lot of work, effort, and tears went into digging deep into our collective experiences and examining the devastating legacy of previous Canadian government policies, including the residential school system.

Mr. Speaker, the commission made a number of “Calls to Action.” In the area of health, they speak directly to the need for our governments, federal and territorial, to pay attention to the health status of indigenous people, including mental health, and to address their needs, including the distinct needs of Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to complete 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? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the commission’s Call to Action No. 21 calls upon the federal government “to provide sustainable funding...for healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.”

Mr. Speaker, in its February 2016 response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s report, the Government of Nunavut stated that it would “engage with the federal government to implement this Recommendation.”

Mr. Speaker, we are still waiting for this to happen. Mental health issues are ongoing and unchecked. Mr. Speaker, each generation affects the next. These calls to action must lead to action.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be healthy in order for our children to also be healthy. I call upon the government to take action on mental health by establishing a healing centre and providing the necessary resources and counsellors. We need to break free from the legacy of the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Member’s Statement 044 – 5(2):
Gratitude to Baker Lake Search
and Rescue**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Before I make my statement, I’m not home right now, but my youngest son, my young grandson and his classmates at Rachel Arngnamaktiq School are going to be celebrating their graduation and are going to be having performances. They will now be going to the Jonah Amitnaaq High School. They are graduating from elementary school. To all the parents, grandmothers and grandfathers, have a great day on this day of transition for your children.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state that at the beginning of our spring sitting, there was someone being searched for by the Baker Lake search and rescue. I rise today to express my heartfelt gratitude for the outstanding dedication of Baker

Lake's search and rescue organization, Qamani'tuaq Qiniqtiit, as well as the contribution and effort made by our Government of Nunavut's Emergency Measures Division, Ookpik Aviation, Agnico Eagle Mines, and all the volunteers from the community of Baker Lake who helped with the search with no pay at all.

Mr. Speaker, of course we are all extremely happy with the positive outcome in the search for the missing hunter, the nephew of my colleague from Aivilik, as he was found safe and sound.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, when the Qamani'tuaq Qiniqtiit first got the call out for the missing hunter late last Tuesday night...

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Mikkungwak, please proceed.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

As I was saying, when the Qamani'tuaq Qiniqtiit first got the call out for the missing hunter late last Tuesday night, there were already four searches on the go and there were four people missing. Once they heard about it, two searchers took off from the community within half an hour of receiving the call. With

visibility decreasing, a backup team of four additional searchers heading out the following morning at 6:00 a.m. while everyone else was still sleeping.

Agnico Eagle Mines' emergency response team assisted with searches around the mine site as that is the direction the hunter was originally headed, but they didn't come up with any leads. They didn't know where the hunter was actually headed at that time.

The Government of Nunavut's Emergency Measures Division approved Ookpik Aviation to assist with a search flight. Q-Sana, a private sector company, also contributed to the search.

Mr. Speaker, by Thursday there were 20 volunteers and 9 spotters for air searches and the following day another 6 volunteers joined the crew.

I would like to recognize the six volunteer searchers who found Kyle. I truly thank Philip Putumiraqtuq, Justin Tanuyak, Charles Oosuaq, Dominick Nasauyaituk, Hosea Iksiraq, and Brad Mainse.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend everyone in Baker Lake who participated in this search for their efforts and dedication: the searchers, the spotters, the aircrew, and those who brought food to sustain them.

I am confident that we can all be proud of the way the search and rescue community comes together to save lives and keep our families whole. I am very happy about that and grateful to everyone. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 045 – 5(2):
Whale Cove Participants at Skills
Nunavut**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues and to the people watching the televised proceedings. Elders in both Whale Cove and Arviat, you continue to be in my thoughts.

With respect to the people enjoying the beautiful spring season, I am envious of your freedom to go on the land as it gets tiresome just sitting indoors. Nonetheless, since we are working, being indoors is fine.

I want to acknowledge and express my pride today. I rise today to acknowledge the youth of Whale Cove who participated in competitions here in Iqaluit for Skills Nunavut. They competed at this event. Whale Cove residents took part in the competitions and they are quite skilled as they tend to win quite often when they attend any sort of competition. This trend continued with several winners here.

I am very proud of the following people: Kelly Copland got bronze for (interpretation ends) TV and video; (interpretation) Zedekiah Sammurtok also won (interpretation ends) bronze (interpretation) for TV and video and silver for (interpretation ends) job demonstration.

(interpretation) I will now switch to

English. (interpretation ends) Steven Panika won gold for photography. Good work. Kenia Pike won silver in workplace safety.

Mr. Speaker, Caitlin Oklaga won silver in sewing, and John Voisey won gold in carpentry. I would also like to mention the excellent work of all the staff and Principal Claude Pike in Whale Cove and all the excellent work that is happening at the school there in Whale Cove. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

I urge young people to work hard in school and participate in Skills Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 046 – 5(2):
Happy Birthday to James
Panioyak**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to wish one of my constituents a happy birthday. This individual works tirelessly and is a huge advocate for elders and the Inuinnaqtun language. Please help me in wishing our very own Inuinnaqtun interpreter, James Panioyak, happy birthday.

>>Applause

Speaker: Happy birthday, James.

(interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

**Member's Statement 047 – 5(2):
Stimulating Nunavut's Economy**

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the listening and viewing audience and to my wife who is watching the proceedings. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) we are representing Nunavummiut in our roles here, and sometimes we need to state the ugly realities that perhaps may be uncomfortable to hear based on what we observe. In working for Nunavummiut, we do not bear any enmity towards the government, as my colleague from Arviat previously stated. We aren't singling out any specific people.

Nonetheless, in order to have a properly functioning government, we work really hard to keep the government accountable, as we are working for our Inuit constituents. By using Inuit rights, this territory of Nunavut was created and we will not be silenced about this fact. (interpretation ends) Nunavut was created on the backs of Inuit and I do not apologize for being a beneficiary.

Mr. Speaker, I would like today to comment on the budget delivered by this government two days ago. First I want to congratulate the minister for delivering his first budget as the Finance Minister of Nunavut. Congratulations, sir.

Today my comment is going to be around how this government intends to generate revenue for Nunavummiut to stimulate the economy.

Mr. Speaker, the minister said that the federal government has reduced transfer payments and our social programs are underfunded, but what I did not hear is how this government plans and what concrete actions it will be taking in moving initiatives forward that would help this government stimulate the economy to generate revenues to support its initiatives and create jobs.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) the mines are very important and provide a benefit, especially to the smaller communities that are left behind and ignored by the government. The mines provide assistance. We don't have any employment in the small communities and we thank the mining companies for working for our benefit.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we all know... . Oh, my time is up already.

>> *Laughter*

I'm requesting more time to conclude my statement today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Netser, please proceed.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your consent.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we all know that the mining sector is growing and has created many jobs directly and indirectly throughout Nunavut.

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Address says, “Nunavut’s economy is growing largely in part due to a strong mining sector. Mineral and petroleum exploration has declined over the past several years, but mine construction and mining operations are active and have the potential to expand throughout our territory.”

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) unfortunately the (interpretation ends) Grays Bay project (interpretation) was let go. The Premier had mentioned that he wanted to provide assistance and said he would support that sector, but the government got away from that. It’s very unfortunate.

(interpretation ends) In the Budget Address I did not hear how this government plans to train Nunavummiut for these great opportunities in our regions. I heard training money for government employees, but government is not the private sector that generates revenue for important services; it’s the private sector through taxes that this government collects. On page 10 it said that \$229.8 million was collected, but we know that’s not enough.

Mr. Speaker, I did not hear how this government plans to stimulate the Nunavut economy to generate more revenues for Nunavummiut to support our increasing social programs. We have a serious need for social programs in terms of mental illness, etcetera. Our medical travel budget is busting through the seams and we’re short on funds, Mr. Speaker.

I did not hear what plans this government has to ensure Nunavummiut have the training they need to participate in developing new sectors like mining

jobs.

>>Applause

Nothing. The Grays Bay project, going back to it again, would have created \$10 billion to the Nunavut economy.

I also did not hear in the budget how much more our programs and services costs will increase with the federally imposed carbon tax, but recently the news said that it’s going to cost us \$15 million. It will not address food security, housing construction, electricity, costs the government pays through this field, and the carbon tax that will be imposed upon us. How much more are these important programs going to cost us to deliver, and where is the money coming from to cover these increases in operations given the government just presented a deficit budget?

Mr. Speaker, I believe this government needs to be a champion in moving major projects forward, such as the Grays Bay project, that will help this government create revenue and jobs for our people. This government should not be a brick wall to the opportunities of our Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed further into the second week, I want to remind you that if you wish to reply to the Budget Address, you have an opportunity to do so under Item 10. You are allotted 20 minutes and you do not require permission to continue until it reaches that time limit. If you wish to respond, I would prefer that members use that

agenda item to submit their replies. This is just a reminder. Thank you.

Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

**Member's Statement 048 – 5(2):
Incorporating Traditions with
Modern Day**

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say “good day” to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. I said good evening by mistake yesterday. That was unfortunate.

I was brought up being taught the traditional language of the elders. My father was born in Coral Harbour prior to the advent of white men. Our mother passed on this sage advice, “The end of the seasons kill people.” She specifically mentioned early spring and fall seasons, and to be prepared for these seasonal hardships.

In applying this belief towards people suffering from mental health issues, we are seeing more cases in Nunavut and I have received correspondence from parents on the verge of giving up on their sons or daughters who hear voices in their heads. Further, many residents in our communities know of fellow residents whose mental health may be hurting their spirits. Even though we want to help them, there is nowhere and no one to turn to.

I have reflected on whether or not this old Inuit saying, “The end of the seasons kill people,” would apply. As I see it, we have an ancient Inuit culture with old traditions and we were suddenly thrust

into the modern age. This old saying that should have prepared us for changes and which should have been a foundation leads to obstacles when an ancient culture runs into the modern office setting. These should be our points of assistance in our lives and mental health.

To cite a personal example, when I was first elected as an MLA, I thought that everyone knew who I was in Nunavut, including my fellow residents in our community. I made the point of visiting various government offices. On one occasion when I went to an office, I saw a woman I had never seen before who was inputting data on the computer. I introduced myself and shook her hand. I asked her what her position was in the office. She told me that she is the mental health coordinator. I said, “Oh,” and she then asked me who I was. I stated that “I am Cathy Towtongie and I am an MLA.” It was not funny at that time.

However, I fully support the Government of Nunavut's health department, but we need a different approach that includes layers of details, usually called a strategy that can guide us towards a future goal to assist residents undergoing mental health issues, as we have to move forward.

Speaker: Excuse me. (interpretation) I apologize. Ms. Towtongie, if you wish to finish, please request consent to conclude your statement.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. I'll be done shortly.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous

consent to conclude her statement today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Ms. Towtongie, please proceed.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): I have read many books on how we have an old tradition and we have come to the modern day, and how we can move forward.

I would like my colleagues to consider how our fellow Inuit, young men and women, and parents can be provided different types of services. There is not one single solution. I will talk about this again at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 049 – 5(2): Coral from Grise Fiord

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were fishing derbies in two communities this month. The one in Grise Fiord is a 14-hour trip by snowmobile to reach the lake that is used every year.

I would like to thank the recreation committee, Rose Christensen, the Arctic Fisheries Alliance, the Aivik Hunters and Trappers Organization, and the hamlet council, who funded and provided the prizes.

In my other constituency community of Arctic Bay, the Ipiutaq Committee also organized derbies. They are Valerie Qaunaq, Audrey Qamanirq, Lorraine Kilabuk, Julia Olayuk, and Samuel

Shooyook.

People can do their fishing in different lakes, and of course some of the people who caught the fish sent me some. My sister found something that was very interesting. While she was jigging sculpins, she hooked something that is not edible, but it's now in the House. I would like to thank my sister, who provided something very beautiful.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to provide entertainment to their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Member's Statement 050 – 5(2): Opening of the Kenojuak Cultural Centre

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I didn't seek unanimous consent to conclude my member's statement yesterday, so I'm going to take this time to add onto my member's statement from yesterday regarding the opening of the Kenojuak Cultural Centre and Print Shop.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, numerous people contributed toward this project. Financial contributions were received from various entities. I wish to

acknowledge them as I didn't acknowledge them yesterday: CIBC and TD Canada Trust, as well as contributions from Infrastructure Canada that provided a large amount of funding. However, contributions included the Government of Nunavut and Inuit organizations, specifically Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, the cultural centre is also a print shop situated in Cape Dorset. It will become a must-see facility for anyone visiting Cape Dorset. Further, we expect that the official grand opening will occur this fall. There will be many attendees at this opening. This will occur in September. If colleagues are able to make time and are in Cape Dorset, a large celebration will occur for the opening of the arts centre. There are many invited guests and we will also formally acknowledge everyone who made financial contributions towards this goal. We appreciate all the contributors.

The residents of Cape Dorset now have another masterpiece to take pride in, especially in light of the fact that carving and print arts form a large sector in our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

>> *Laughter*

I'll be last. While I have the opportunity, my daughter, Nancy Enook Ootoovak, is celebrating her birthday today. My dear daughter, please enjoy your birthday, have a happy birthday, and I hope my

grandson keeps you running because I want you to be young for a very long time. Have a very happy birthday, my dear daughter. Thank you.

Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My wife and I have children living here in Iqaluit now, and we are appreciative of the residents of Iqaluit who have welcomed them with open arms. They are now living here and are starting to raise their families. They have inserted themselves into the local community of Iqaluit. We as parents are extremely grateful to Iqaluit residents and thanking them is our only means of expressing our appreciation.

Today I wish to welcome our youngest son, Tooma Netser. He competed in the Kimmirut-Iqaluit snowmobile race during Toonik Tyme and he won first prize this year. His older brother won the event in 2014. People sometimes confuse our son, who is the middle son, between Tooma and the older brother for one another and they sometimes are thought to be the other brother by Iqaluit residents.

Anyway, our son broke his thumb during a snowmobile race. When the older brother is seen by Iqaluit residents, they offer congratulations or express their pride to him. When they do that, he just says "thank you."

>> *Laughter*

As well, when they confuse him with Tooma, they ask how his thumb miraculously healed. He told me he responds this way: “I drank a ton of milk and my thumb healed rapidly.” The middle son is a bit of a prankster, but we want to welcome our youngest son to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tooma, welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Let’s move on. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 067 – 5(2): Local Housing Authority for Netsilik

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let’s have a good day today, my colleagues and our Premier, as well as the residents of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak.

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

As the minister is aware, some local housing organizations in Nunavut are associations formed under the *Societies Act*, whose boards of directors are elected by the general public. Other LHOs are authorities whose board members are appointed by the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The appointments of the members of the board of directors of Kugaaruk’s housing authority were published in the

February 2016 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*. This list indicated that the appointments expired on December 31, 2017, almost five months ago. However, I have not yet seen any notices about the appointment of new members.

Can the minister confirm the status of the appointment of members of the board of directors of the Kugaaruk Housing Authority? 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. (interpretation) If I recall correctly, the correspondence recently went through our office and they were appointed, but I just do not have the list in front of me. There have been appointments to the Kugaaruk Housing Authority. That is what I recall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is similar. (interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm the status of the appointment of members of the board of directors of the Taloyoak Housing Authority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I have the same response. The correspondence has gone through our office. The

signatories have signed the documents and have been appointed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure we will be hearing about this soon. Mr. Speaker, my last question is: (interpretation ends) can the minister describe what training and orientation is provided to newly appointed members of the board of directors of our LHOs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to what I stated earlier, if it turns out that this wasn't the case, I will inform the member immediately upon review of the issue. I want to ensure I respond truthfully when I am asked these types of questions. If there was an error in the statement, I will let the member know afterwards.

With respect to the board of directors of the local housing organizations, whenever a request for training is submitted to outline the director's roles and responsibilities and by-laws, then yes, training can be provided, but a request has to be made first by the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Question 068 – 5(2): Changing Calm Air Routing

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the minister will recall that in March of this year I asked questions in this House regarding the minister's willingness to work with Calm Air to change the routing of its flights in the Kivalliq. Mr. Speaker, I subsequently wrote a formal letter to the minister on this issue but have yet to receive a reply.

Could the minister provide an update on what specific steps she has taken to date to work with Calm Air's management to improve its flight routings and schedules so that medical travel clients, especially our elders and those with small children, can travel more comfortably? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we had a meeting with Calm Air and I did write a letter to you. I apologize; I didn't have an assistant for a while and I just recently found out the letter was not sent. I do have a response and you are going to get it as soon as possible.

I'll read these excerpts so that we will know exactly what specific steps were taken. (interpretation ends) My health officials met with Calm Air and they conducted a thorough review of the request.

The current airline schedule for

Chesterfield Inlet provides two departing and one returning flight each day. If Calm Air agreed to the petition request, they would have to reduce the airline services to one departing and one returning flight each day. Having multiple departing flights from a community increases the residents' access to necessary health services and reduces the potential need for a medevac. It's better to have two than cut down to one.

After speaking with Calm Air, we decided not to make any major changes to the airline service delivery until after the GN's Airline Procurement Strategy project with Lufthansa Consulting has completed its assessment and recommendations. In light of this, we asked the Kivalliq Inuit Centre to implement a new routine that will allow medical travellers to get a bit more rest where they don't have to wake up at four o'clock in the morning, to try to work with the patients that are there. That was agreed to and I think this has been implemented.

I have also instructed that, especially for elders, to try to look at any flights that go direct from Rankin Inlet to Chesterfield Inlet to put our medical patients on that as much as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I will speak in English, as she spoke in English. Thank you. (interpretation ends) When I last raised this issue in this House, the minister indicated that she would welcome Calm

Air contacting her office on this issue, so I'm glad to hear that. However, I have asked the minister and her officials to approach Calm Air to address this issue. At the Hudson Bay roundtable in Winnipeg, Manitoba, I asked directly to the president, Gary Bell, as to what kind of differentiation there would be in the economic cost of changing the flights. The president assured me there would be no economic cost; it would just be a minor change.

Will the minister commit to contacting Calm Air at the earliest opportunity and request the airline to change their routing from Rankin Inlet-Baker Lake-Chesterfield Inlet to this type of routing: Rankin Inlet-Chesterfield Inlet-Baker Lake? That's all we request. Going to Baker Lake is about one hour from Rankin Inlet. They land in Baker Lake and it's another hour to Chesterfield Inlet. Going from Rankin Inlet to Chesterfield Inlet is 15 minutes. That's the type of change that the petition was about. I would like an answer on that, please, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did meet with the airline and it was something that we talked about. In talking with the airline, it was decided that it's better just to leave things right now because it was going to take away... . The airline had told our department, "If you do that, you're going to take away one flight going into Chesterfield Inlet," and we weren't sure if that was the right thing to do or not.

What we decided is that we're going to wait for the review to take place because

there is a review going on right now about medical travel. We're going to wait for that to be completed and if we need to make adjustments, then that's what we will do. We don't want to rush into something 'til we get the whole picture. If you could bear with us for a while until we get that report in and we can see what changes need to be made based upon that review that is being done. We don't want to take away an extra flight coming into the community if we don't have to. That's not something that we would like to do.

I hear you and I understand your frustration and that you don't want people to be on the plane forever. What we have tried to do, like I said earlier, is we have tried to work with the boarding home so that they don't have to get up so early. Where we can move it right now, that's what we're trying to do to accommodate travellers. Also, if there are opportunities for the traveller to go direct, then that's the flight that they would go on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Mr. Speaker, I recognize the issues involved with that. However, the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet had petitioned to take away one flight so that route could become Rankin Inlet-Chesterfield Inlet-Baker Lake instead of the other way.

I understand that change does not happen overnight and the medical contract expires in August of 2019, which is next year. In order to bring about change, we must begin as soon as possible to plan them and how to

implement them. Will the minister commit to working with me to see how we can do this for the upcoming fall sitting with an update on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to assure the member that this is not a closed issue. I haven't said, "Okay, that's it, we're not going to deal with it." We're still going to look at it. We're going to look at the concerns that the petition has brought out, but we just need to make sure that we're looking at the whole picture and the review that we're trying to do on medical travel will help us really look at Nunavut as a whole and to see where changes need to be made. I will definitely be in communication with you and we can certainly discuss it further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 069 – 5(2): Grays Bay Road and Port Project

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say "thank you" to my colleague on my left for his member's statement.

My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they deal with the Grays Bay road. No wonder my hair is getting gray.

>> *Laughter*

On March 26 the minister wrote a letter to the president of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. In his letter, the minister stated, “I am writing today regarding our joint proposal submitted to the National Trade Corridors Fund for funding for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project. In light of the recent mandate...the Government of Nunavut has decided to withdraw our proposal under the National Trade Corridors Fund. This financing commitment would significantly impact the GN’s ability to pursue needed infrastructure in other areas.”

For the record, can the minister clearly state what specific financing commitment he was referring to in his letter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for an opportunity to give our side of the view.

Mr. Speaker, our financial commitment would have been the 25 percent of the roughly \$550 million it would have cost to build the Grays Bay port and road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his letter to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the minister also stated that “The Government of Nunavut has received advice that the mining companies benefitting from the Grays Bay Road and Port Project would be in a position to finance the road construction

themselves...” For the record, can the minister clearly state who provided this advice to the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can’t tell the member specifically who provided the advice, but Agnico Eagle in the Kivalliq built three roads totalling over 220 kilometres on their own. They received no money from the federal government or from the territorial government.

Baffinland Mines on Baffin Island built a road. I’m not sure how far it is, but I believe it’s at least 100 kilometres long. They did not receive any funding. Mr. Speaker, Baffinland Iron Mines has proposed to build a railroad from their mine site to Milne Inlet. They have not requested for any funding help from the territorial government and I don’t know if they have asked for any from the federal government, but I don’t think so.

Mr. Speaker, we have a limited amount of resources. We have so many needs in our territory. For example, the member has said on many occasions that we need treatment centres in his community of Gjoa Haven. All our money comes from one pot. If we spend in here, we have none for there.

In *Turaaqtavut* we come up with our priorities and we’re all part of the *Turaaqtavut* mandate. We all agreed to it in Pond Inlet in Full Caucus. This is a new government and a new mandate. This new government decided that we have our priorities and we only have so much money to spend. We have the debt

cap to worry about.

All the funding that we get for the GN, we still always have to put in our 25 percent and that comes out of our money. Mr. Speaker, we only have so much money to get so much done. I'm sorry if the member disagreed with our government's position on that, but we just have to make sure that our priorities are within the mandate, *Turaaqtavut*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 13, 2018 the Government of Nunavut issued a news release in which it stated that "The Government of Nunavut was recently advised that its submission to the National Trade Corridors Fund for funding of the Grays Bay Road and Port project was not successful." The minister's letter is dated March 26 and the news release is dated April 13.

For the record, can the minister clearly explain why the government's public announcement did not mention the fact that it had already made a unilateral decision to withdraw its support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We worked and communicated with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. The member is correct. We did notify them before the announcement from the federal government that the project was turned down for funding.

We wanted to work with our partners in terms of trying to not hinder their process in terms of trying to access funding. It was jointly agreed between the KIA and our government that we would hold off and have a "wait and see" attitude, but they were informed before the announcement from the federal government. That's correct.

We worked with them and we support the Grays Bay road project in principle, just like we support any major developments in Nunavut that's going to bring employment, boost the economy, and bring jobs to Nunavut. We had a meeting and that was the outcome of the meetings that we had. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 070 – 5(2): General Rate Application

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are once again for the Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister stated last Thursday, the URRC report and recommendations were on the cabinet agenda for last Friday.

Mr. Speaker, as this decision impacts every resident of the territory of Nunavut and we have waited very patiently the last five days for an announcement, can the minister tell us now what was decided at the cabinet table? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has not been decided upon yet. The Minister responsible for the (interpretation ends) Qulliq Energy Corporation (interpretation) can probably explain this. I don't want to speak on the minister's behalf, but I believe this can be explained on Friday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister was at the cabinet table when this decision was come about and it directly reports a result of a report that was submitted through his office from the Utility Rates Review Council. I understand they want to wait 'til Friday, but I think that all members of the public deserve to know what transpired at that meeting with this RFD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As cabinet, we have our procedures. When something has not yet been decided upon, the minister can't explain it. Like I said, the minister will explain it on Friday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll leave that alone for a couple of more days.

Mr. Speaker, there are legislated requirements associated with these reports to the URRRC. When will the final URRRC report and recommendations be tabled in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for wanting the people of Nunavut to hear that information. Once the decision has been made, we will let you all know when the announcement is made, but that is all I can say right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 071 – 5(2): Devolution

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to direct my questions to the Premier.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, although I have read this year's Budget Address from cover to cover, top to bottom, I could not find one mention of the word "devolution" in it. I'm sure that it wasn't an accident.

My first question for the Premier is: does the absence of any reference to devolution in this Budget Address mean that the government is not expecting to sign an agreement in principle anytime soon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. I remember the member telling us to slow down on devolution, but I would like to explain that it is dealt with annually and it will be dealt with this year. There will be negotiations on devolution in June. As I stated before, the federal government explained that they want to see an agreement in principle in the fall of 2018 and that is still our goal. We will continue to negotiate with them. It is not stated anywhere here in the budget, but this is ongoing. As a government, we want to see an agreement in principle to pursue devolution. I would like to assure the member that the work on the matter is ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. I do not want you to rush on this matter. I can even say that it should not be dealt with right now. I would be happier if the work on it stopped right now. As the Minister of Transportation stated, we never have enough money, and now we are paying money for work on devolution. We don't know if it will improve things for Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the concept of a "net fiscal benefit" for the territory is key to the issue of devolution.

Mr. Speaker, I recently re-read the 2007 Mayer report on devolution and I want to quote from a part of it, if you will allow me. "...the GN lamented that Nunavut loses 'hundreds of millions of dollars each year' in royalties and tax benefits because the Federal Government still owns and controls

'our' non-renewable resources. This amount does not appear to be borne out by reality. A federal official estimates the royalty and income taxes that Canada will collect from resource development in 2007 at around \$33 million." I realize that that figure is dated, but I cannot find any newer figures in that regard.

If we look at the amount, \$33 million, it doesn't even cover the cost of one supplementary appropriation for medical travel. Can the Premier clearly indicate how much additional revenue the GN stands to gain under a best-case devolution scenario? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this House is aware, devolution negotiations commenced in 2014. As we all know as MLAs and as Nunavummiut are well aware, Nunavut was created to ensure Inuit were involved in all aspects of governance. Inuit wanted to create the territory of Nunavut after land selection negotiations to ensure that co-management would be inclusive of all of Nunavut. This is our second step in the process.

We now have the Nunavut government up and running. This government will not stop; it will move forward as it now governs the territory. This was part of the reason for including this issue after the land claims process was completed, as one of the underlying principles was towards governance over all the territory. This was one of the goals of Inuit.

Further, in our role as the Government of Nunavut, as well as the Legislative Assembly's mandate, if we are able to devolve the remaining areas, we would prefer to be able to manage everything within our territory. This is the intention behind this goal and I believe we are all aware of that fact.

Also, as per my earlier statement here, this process will continue and the next dates for negotiations are on June 5, 6, and 7. This process will continue and meetings are scheduled for Rankin Inlet where negotiations will take place. The negotiations are specific to devolution. This process will continue because Nunavummiut have expectations with these negotiations and, as the government, we have to try to meet these expectations, which I believe applies to all members here.

We prefer not to place obstacles in front of what Nunavummiut want. This includes other areas and not solely lands management like many of the services currently provided by the federal government. They have public servants who provide the services here and what the federal government currently provides is included in the negotiations. This isn't just about control over lands or minerals.

The areas the federal government has jurisdiction over and their provision of services specific to Nunavut are areas we are attempting to assume authority over through these negotiations, not just Crown lands. This is our primary reason for identifying these costs in the upcoming budget. They will be categorized and we will keep this House updated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier. Indeed I wish to see the process continue, especially in light of the continual addition of funding towards this process and in view of the unpredictability of actual tangible benefits that may accrue to Nunavut. In looking at the funding amounts, I believe that there has to be a greater focus on the actual benefits Nunavummiut can receive when negotiating these matters.

I had a previous question that I felt wasn't answered, so let me rephrase the question. (interpretation ends) Can the Premier clearly indicate how much actual additional revenue the GN stands to gain under a best-case devolution scenario? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We try to make decisions for the long term and that's what we're trying to do. We expect to see some benefits in the future. We don't look at just the next little while; we look at the long run. That's why an agreement on devolution is looked at as a long-term goal. I can respond that way. As I stated earlier, we will explain how much we stand to benefit in terms of his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 072 – 5(2): Ensuring Health Care for Outpost Camps

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the Minister of Health's commitment to ensure that health care is provided to Nunavummiut who are living in outpost camps.

As the minister indicated in her reply to me, and I quote from the unedited *Hansard* from May 28, 2018, "If somebody is hurt out on the land and somebody has a phone or a way of getting in contact with the health centre, then the health centre will do all they can to get somebody out where this person can be picked up."

This very issue was raised at our local hunter and trapper organization's recent general meeting and I am confident that the HTO will be very pleased to hear this. Will the minister commit to writing directly to the Kugluktuk HTO and advise them of her department's commitment to send medical help or transportation to somebody who is hurt out on the land? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually it gives me a very good time now. I was going to come back to the House. I think, at the time when I answered, I said that I wasn't too

sure about the processes of what they are. Since then I have spoken with my department and it turns out that this is an issue that search and rescue actually initiates. I just didn't know it. I thought that it was us, but it's not us. It's search and rescue.

If there is a nurse available to get on the plane or the helicopter or wherever the call comes from, then that's how we participate, but actually it's a search and rescue issue. They're the ones that take the lead and not Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of my constituents live at Contwoyto Lake Outpost Camp. Recently when a medical emergency arose, they were advised that they had to come in to the community by themselves to receive medical assistance.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the health centre staff are made aware of the different ways in which they can provide support to the residents of outpost camps in the region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess there is a lot more than just the health centre and other departments. I think it's going to take a coordinated approach if somebody requires a medevac outside of the community. We are always open to learning. If we are not doing something

that we should be and we need to know, we need to increase our awareness, then yes, that's what we need to do. If this is about the safety of people, then yes, I can commit. My officials are watching. They can make sure that the nurse in charge in Kugluktuk is aware of the steps required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our history, culture, and tradition include living on the land. In fact spending time on the land is often seen as a healing process itself. Can the minister describe how the Department of Health works towards accommodating and supporting traditional Inuit culture and lifestyle in the delivery of health care? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not quite sure what the [member] is getting at, but the first thing that comes to mind would be midwifery. This is an area that I would like to see increased and us doing more of being out on the land.

The only thing I can say right now is that everybody is part of Nunavut and whatever services that we offer within the community is something that we would have to offer outside of the community, but it might not be us as the lead. It might be a different department like search and rescue, but Health will be involved at some point in time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 073 – 5(2): Mental Health and Addictions Services

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

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, on May 24, I tabled a letter from the Hamlet of Pangnirtung requesting the immediate implementation of the Pangnirtung Emergency Intervention Plan. I will be basing my questions on that. In the letter they made a number of recommendations for solutions, including support to provide ongoing basic crisis counselling and victim support services.

The letter identifies... I will switch to English. (interpretation ends) While crisis response initiatives are certainly appreciated, they are short-lived and a more sustained level of service is now needed. Could the minister provide an update on what specific ongoing services her department has made available to the community of Pangnirtung? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the member for the question. I know that my department has been involved with the working group there and they have been going over the needs of the community. We also

provide programs through our Quality of Life Secretariat. We have actually provided Pangnirtung over \$600,000 toward addictions and mental health trauma.

We have been working with the community. We have also sent in extra staff, one specifically to go and work at the school to go work with the students there. We are active, we are there in the community of Pangnirtung, and I think this will continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for explaining that. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the issue of suicide and attempted suicide is a difficult one to talk about. I am sure that everyone in this House has experienced the heartache and pain that arises when a friend or relative attempts to end their life.

Can the minister describe what specific initiatives and activities have been implemented in the community of Pangnirtung to specifically address the issue of suicide? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know every single program that's being delivered in Pangnirtung through our department, but I know that the Quality of Life has been very active there.

Some of the things we fund that go toward the issues of mental well-being, mental health, and suicide prevention are the community wellness committees. We have community wellness committees throughout Nunavut and they're the ones that actually identify what the priorities of the community are. We provide funding and training to help these committees set up and do work in their own communities.

We have Upigivagitsi grants and contributions. Those are provided to hamlets, including Pangnirtung, where it's for addictions counselling and trauma healing. We have a mobile trauma response team. This team went to Pangnirtung. They are Iisaaqivik. They go into communities and work with members that need counselling. We have the Embrace Life Council that teaches the ASIST workshops that people in every community have taken.

There are initiatives and I think we can do more, but it's going to take some time. We can't do it just like that. This is what we're working towards when we meet with the hamlets, when we meet with the Pujualussait. It's trying to come up with ways where we can enhance services that we already provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for the good news. You have identified the services that are available to communities. Can the government set up programs now for a healing centre in Nunavut to address addictions, trauma,

and mental health within Nunavut, not outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can say that we are presently working on this. My officials, NTI, and the federal government have had meetings. They're putting a proposal together for a healing centre that would be located in Nunavut. We want to establish a healing centre and I want you to know that we are presently working on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Question 074 – 5(2): Installation of LED Street Lights

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and my questions are based on her minister's statement earlier today.

Today she announced that the QEC has successfully completed the replacement of conventional street lights in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and Kugluktuk to LED lighting. Can the minister shed some light and explain the criteria the QEC used to determine which communities would receive LED street lighting first? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt, for the question. I don't have the actual specifics on how they selected those communities, but they were working towards changing street lighting in Grise Fiord and Kugaaruk, but because of procurement and shipping timelines, logistics, and funding constraints, we have now delayed that in those two communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also in the minister's statement it states that she acknowledges Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for their financial contributions to the program. Has Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada shown any interest in providing more funding to this program so that other communities can benefit from this "green" initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I did state that Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada supported our costs for this project. The cost shared was 56 percent from INAC and 44 percent from the QEC, but we will again continue to apply for funding for the replacement of LED lighting in the other communities. Once we know if our funding is approved, I will announce it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake,

Mr. Mikkungwak.

Question 075 – 5(2): Status of Action Plan to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Finance and they concern the status of the government's action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I want to begin by following up on the issues that were raised by my colleague from Netsilik on Monday.

As the minister is aware, Baker Lake has recently changed its status to that of an unrestricted community. However, residents still need to go through the government's permitting system to purchase alcohol.

The government's action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut indicates that "Sometimes the courts, justices of the peace, RCMP or other mechanism...restrict or prohibit an individual from accessing alcohol...the Government could potentially support such court-ordered restrictions by not issuing an alcohol import permit to the individual."

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Finance is responsible for the permitting system. Can the minister tell us what specific actions have been taken to implement this specific idea? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the discussions on alcohol, the lead was the (interpretation ends) task force (interpretation) in terms of the recommendations. These recommendations are currently being developed into actions that can be implemented and the work is ongoing.

Let me state it in English. (interpretation ends) Under enforcement, one of the things that we are doing that he just mentioned is improving our permitting process and exploring ways to help support the RCMP and support court-ordered restrictions on alcohol. Those are one of many things that our government is doing to try to improve our systems. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut's action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut also indicates that the government will be "Taking steps to monitor, reduce and penalize permit-related fraud in the territory." Mr. Speaker, I imagine that the lessons learned from this area of activity will be useful in terms of regulating the sale of cannabis. Can the minister describe what specific actions his department has taken to monitor, reduce, and penalize permit-related fraud in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would direct my department that if there is any fraud taking place, they would not get those liquor imports. Those are one of the things as a part of improving our permitting process and to ensure that those permits are used for the purpose that was provided to the individual. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's action plan to reduce alcohol-related harm in Nunavut also indicates that it will be "Using the civil forfeiture tools available in the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* to target the proceeds of crime resulting from bootlegging." As the minister is well aware, I have asked a number of questions about when this legislation will be brought into force. Can the minister indicate how the Department of Finance is supporting the Department of Justice in the implementation of the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For this, I have been having very close discussions with my ministerial colleague, the Minister of Justice, related to this and we are working together to try to get this implemented for our government. I thank you for your continued questions on this matter. It is one that we are jointly working on. I just wanted to assure the member that there is work that

is taking place and coordination with the lead department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 076 – 5(2): Issues Pertaining to the Budget Address

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thought I was going to have to introduce that motion to extend the question period.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance regarding the comments I made about the mining sector, especially on its importance for the smaller communities. It is of concern because it creates jobs for us.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as a follow-up to my member's statement, given that the mining sector is the largest private sector employer, can the minister explain what training money has been set aside to train Nunavummiut for these good paying jobs?

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) it's evident that people who receive mine training end up working for the government as it has many jobs that are available. We consider mining very important and that is why I'm asking the finance minister the question. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for

your member's statement and good question. (interpretation ends) For mining-related training, there are a couple of departments that are responsible for implementing any of the training.

I would ask the member, and in the Budget Address that I have made, there are no specific dollars to it, but there are specific departments, such as the economic development and transportation minister will appear before you related to his department and he oversees the Nunavut mine training. Also, the Arctic College minister does a number of training leading towards mine training.

As you know, the mines that are operating right now are all in Inuit-owned lands. Our regional Inuit organizations have successfully negotiated Inuit impact and benefit agreements. Through those, there are a number of training and requirements for Inuit to work, which is not in our budget, but I just wanted to reference that there are a number of areas that are towards mine training. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I note in the minister's speech, he is cancelling the Fuel Tax Rebate Program that was designed to stimulate the economic development of these sectors in the past for a great return on that program.

What plans and programs does this government plan to introduce to support economic development opportunities

being pursued by our Inuit organizations, mining and exploration companies throughout Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In the Budget Address, page 6 of 13, the first paragraph does indicate that "...Economic Development and Transportation will receive \$3.3 million over three years to assist companies involved in mining exploration to engage more effectively with communities." This program is replacing the fuel tax rebate and at the appropriate time during Committee of the Whole or through question period, I would encourage members to ask specific ministers on the details of these.

As part of the Budget Address, this was highlighting all of the government's initiatives. Through this approval process, we go through the Committee of the Whole for each of the departments and I would encourage members to ask the responsible ministers on specifics of these areas. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) This question is about the budget, so I'm going shift over to the carbon tax that the federal government will be imposing on us and it is going to increase the government operations obviously because on the news the other day, we will be paying maybe up to \$15 million.

My question to the minister is: any tax that is collected by this government, does the federal government call back the amount of money that this government receives from the taxpayer? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that was clear.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, the carbon tax revenue we would be receiving would all be part of the federal transfer that we go and get in. This would be a specific tax that they collect, not necessarily on our behalf, but they're collecting it for their climate change efforts and any revenues would come in as part of our revenues. It wouldn't impact on the territorial funding formula as far as we're going through right now, and those details are still being worked on in terms on whether it's going to be clawed back or not. Those are areas that we continue to be working on and it's something where, if there are any further developments, I will be very happy to share in the House. I thank the member for his keen interest. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. With that, 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. Tabling of Documents. 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 break for (interpretation ends) 20 and a half minutes.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:33 and Committee resumed at 15:57*

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order.

Before we proceed with the business before the committee, I wish to make a statement.

A fundamental principle of parliamentary government in this country is the principle of ministerial responsibility and accountability.

Ministers are expected to account for their decisions and the actions of their departments. They do so by responding to questions in appropriate forums, such as this institution.

When bills, proposed budgets, and other items are under consideration, our practice is to allow ministers to be accompanied by their officials, who may be asked by their ministers to respond to detailed or technical questions that are

posed by members.

However, it is important for all members to respect the prerogative of ministers to decide whether or not they wish to refer a given question to their officials for response, and all questions should be asked directly to ministers.

It is also important that all of us as members not place officials in the position of being asked to respond to questions that have already been answered by their ministers.

As the Committee of the Whole proceeds over the coming weeks with its consideration of the 2018-19 main estimates, your Chairs will be attentive to this guidance.

We will now proceed with today's business. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 4 and 5. 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. If time permits, we will commence with the review of the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 4? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Thank you. 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, I do.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials to go to the witness table? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, Ms. Kimball, Deputy Minister, and also Assistant Deputy Minister to my left, Mr. Kyle Seeley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. We're on page J-5. Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. Following my list of names, Mr. Main.

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

While we are on the review of the department's budget, yesterday there was a question with regard to (interpretation ends) local government services (interpretation) and their expenditures for 2017-18. If you have a (interpretation ends) ballpark figure, (interpretation) I would like to hear it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently adding up the figures with the assistance of the Department of Finance and that work will continue until the end of June. At that time we will have a better idea of what the actual expenditures are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Okay, so how about spending to date? If it doesn't include the entire fiscal year, what's the spending to date under this branch? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I'll ask my Deputy Minister to respond, (interpretation ends) through you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have those details with me today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main: Okay. (interpretation) Now it's confusing. I'll ask a different question.

Under (interpretation ends) Local Government Services, Sports and Recreation, (interpretation) I know that CGS has a lot of responsibilities. I was wondering why (interpretation ends) Sports and Recreation (interpretation) is under the Department of CGS. Yes, I know it was under CGS when it was the Northwest Territories. Have you ever considered moving (interpretation ends) Sports and Recreation (interpretation) to a different department? Have you considered that to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Sports and Recreation was moved to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth but in the Third Assembly they moved it back to CGS because hamlet councils and municipalities are responsible for sports and recreation under their municipal (interpretation ends) recreation departments, (interpretation) and they do apply for funding for the operations of recreation.

When there is a close working relationship between the municipality and the department, it is more appropriate to place that program under

Community and Government Services. It's under the department because we work closely together with the municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) I have specific questions on this Municipal Funding Program. The block funding program is a \$40 million plus program and it's governed by a six-page policy. On the one hand, I'm happy to see that the government is reducing their use of paper, but on the other hand, such a short policy, I think, places a large amount of responsibility in the hands of bureaucrats. The policy that I am referring to seems to allow for a large amount of discretion. That's where I'm coming from with these questions here.

I realize that this policy has to be improved and it was mentioned yesterday that a lot of work has been done in terms of this policy. What is the timeline in terms of getting a new municipal funding program policy in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're currently working on the formula within the policy and the policy will be updated by the next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was also mentioned yesterday that there was a business case that was going forward. I might be reading too much into this, but does that mean that there will be an "ask" for additional funds under the revised policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. Through this policy work and review, we are putting together a proposal through NAM and it may warrant additional funding requests going forward, if that is the result at the end of the day, but it seems more likely that yes, that will happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to get specific here. On page 4 of the existing policy it says under 2(c)(i), "allocating a basic grant to community based on populations of...500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500." What are those basic grant amounts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding is based on the population amounts for each of the different communities. That's one small part of the formula that the municipal funding is built on. I don't have the actual amounts here on how that's built into the formula.

The working group that has been formed in and around reviewing the municipal funding formula is taking a look at population size and all of the different components that are included in the formula that does designate how much each community is funded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. If the future policy is going to include similar measures, I would hope that it would include the number 3,000, which my home community of Arviat is approaching.

It also refers in here to a community uniqueness factor that is applied to each community in Nunavut. It also says that "Community uniqueness factors will be reviewed every five years to determine if there are any changes in community circumstances that require an adjustment."

What is the process that exists right now? We have \$40 million plus going out under this policy this year, correct? What is the process for reviewing those community uniqueness factors? I'm really interested in how the municipal councils are involved in terms of determining these factors if they feel that they are being short-changed or if they feel that changes are needed. Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think some of the issues Mr. Main is bringing up are the very things that we're reviewing in this whole policy. Some of them are like "Should it be 500, 1,000, 1,300, or 1,301 and plus?" Those are some of the things that we're looking at and even the issues surrounding the uniqueness of a community. Those are all the things that we're looking at right now.

In terms of community involvement and that process when it comes to funding municipalities, maybe for the particular details in that, if I could, again through you, Mr. Chairman, have Mr. Seeley respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The community uniqueness factor is a complex formula that incorporates a wide variety of variables, as the title, I suppose, indicates. It is a very complex formula that is reviewed. The entire funding formula is reviewed on a five-year cycle. The current process that we have engaged in is a partnership with NAM and municipal senior administrative officers, consulting with them on the specific components that make their community unique and the attributes that they would like incorporated into the formula.

As you can imagine, differing road lengths, different air transportation costs,

and things like that have significant impacts on the operational costs within each and every community. Those components are all included in that. We are taking a very collaborative approach with municipalities through the SAOs in the development and review of the community uniqueness factor and the overall MFP formula. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the additional information.

My last question on this part, in the same section here on page 4 it says that part of the formula is “adding in any forced growth funding approved from time to time which will be applied to each community after the basic grant and community uniqueness factors...” What does “time to time” mean? That’s kind of what I was trying to get at, Mr. Chairman. It seems to be wide open in terms of how the department wants to apply this policy from community to community. What does it mean by “time to time”? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that line of questioning. You can realize how complicated it gets. I think the best thing we’re trying to do is to try to simplify it so that it becomes easier. Some of the “time to time,” for example, would be if there was a new treatment plant of some sort, water treatment plants or sewage

lagoon updates or things like that, if there was significant impact into the community where it would affect the municipality’s funding. Things like that are from the “time to time.” I don’t know if the wording “time to time” is adequate for it, but those are the times that you would have to look at if there is that kind of impact in the community and it does happen, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I hope that clarifies his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that. Moving on, within the same policy on the fifth page it mentions method of payment. I’ll summarize my understanding. If hamlets are on the ball, they will be given quarterly advances, and if they’re having problems with their books, they will receive monthly advances. That’s my interpretation. Looking at the territory, how many communities are on the quarterly advance and how many are on the monthly advance? I’m trying to get a picture of how many of our hamlets are on the ball, so to speak, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the question, Mr. Main. A fair majority of our communities are on the quarterly funding, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you. I thank the minister. Can you elaborate a bit further

in terms of numbers of communities?
Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A fair number of them are under that quarterly funding, Mr. Chairman. More than 75 percent are in the quarterly funding, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It also mentions here that “Failure to submit statements...may result in a hold back of funding...” How many communities have funding being held back under this policy at this current time, specifically how many communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first payments went out in April and all the municipalities have received them at this point, Mr. Chairman. There are some communities that are in debt recovery and needing help. There’s that situation, but as of the payments that went that went out to municipalities, they all went out in April to all the communities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be interesting to see how many of

the previous fiscal year related, so 2017-18 municipal funding program contributions, have holdbacks sitting in there. I appreciate the information about this current fiscal year, but regarding the previous fiscal year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, for operational funding, it’s crucial that all the municipalities receive their operational funding and there were no holdbacks to the best of our knowledge of operational funding for any municipalities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ll switch gears here to your business plan. On page 207 of your business plan it talks about your priorities under this division here for the next fiscal year and a lot of important work: drinking water, working with municipalities collaboratively, and work with departments. Why is there no mention of human resource issues in here? We were speaking yesterday about the issue of capacity within the department. Is it somewhere else in the business plan in terms of the urgent work that needs to be done in terms of capacity within this department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Ms. Kimball respond to that portion of the question, Mr. Chairman, through you. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Working with human resources is an ongoing thing. It is something that we do perpetually. Under Directorate, which is the area that would have the CGS HR piece which would be the interface, there is reference to continuing to strengthen service through continual improvement process and training and support. As well, in the back there's quite some detail on our IEP plans. Those two components together are really speaking to the HR. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. Total Branch. \$85,684,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We are now on page J-6. Community and Government Services. Information Management and Information Technology. Total Branch. \$39,447,000. Agreed? Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to information management and technology, I understand that the department has taken on a lead role for the territory in terms of things that the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation used to handle. What is governing the department's work in terms of a strategy, in terms of a needs analysis? I would hope that the department is looking beyond just the government needs and looking at private sector needs.

I'll use the example of the Meadowbank gold mine. There are huge information technology needs associated with operating a mine, and mining activities can benefit immensely from access to things like fibre optics. What is governing the department's approach to information technology right now? Is there a strategy in place? Has there been an analysis done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from Mr. Main. In terms of information technology, we're working with all players to provide the IT service to Nunavummiut and to the business community, including the mining sector. We are trying very hard to improve the service and try to get as good a service as the rest of this country.

For those details in particular, Mr. Chairman, if I could have Ms. Kimball elaborate on some of the things that we are doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I joined CGS, this was one of the first areas that I kind of latched onto, particularly because historically CGS only looked at the broadband needs of the government. Recognizing that we are a huge player in terms of the monies we spent on broadband services, it was determined that we should be leveraging our position and buying power as a government to bringing the cost down

for all Nunavummiut.

We started endeavouring to look at options that sought that broader solution and broader accessibility for all constituents. Through that we reached out to NTI and joined the Nunavut Economic Forum. We reached out to a number of private stakeholders, including some of the mines directly, particularly in the area of fibre where there is interest in partnering.

One of the steps that we're taking recently is we are doing the undersea marine study. We circulated that out to some, I think it was something like 18 or 20 different prospective stakeholders so that the terms of work in terms of what we're doing in the undersea study will meet any investors' needs, so that when we do go to do a build, any potential investors would have the data that they would need to make the decision of whether or not they want to be participating in the delivery of a fibre solution.

As well, we are pursuing the low earth orbit technology, which is much more deployable in more geographic areas at a much lower cost and can be portable, so you can actually attach the infrastructure you need to mobile equipment. For instance, you can have something in the back of your skidoo as you go out on the land or you can have a small dish on a mine site. It is much more portable than fibre.

We are exploring all those different things and looking on behalf of various interests within Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the level of detail in your answer. It's a tough decision in terms of trying to decide where you're going to invest in things like fibre optics for the territory. To be frank, I'm not sure that CGS is the best department to be leading this type of work. From a government perspective, yes, absolutely; from an economic development perspective, I'm not so sure. Anyway I'll leave that where it is.

If we're looking at laying things like fibre optic lines into Nunavut, marine surveys have to be done. What kind of equipment does that entail? Is there any need for seismic testing in terms of trying to get a picture of the seabed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department is currently looking into the fibre optic possibilities in Nunavut. I know Ms. Kimball has been working hard on that file, so if she could respond to that portion of the question, Mr. Chairman, through you. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In relation to seismic testing, I don't believe there is any form of seismic testing in this. There are geotechnical and geophysical, so they will be doing core sampling as they go along, testing the conditions of the underwater topography and geology. For instance, you want to make sure that it is not salty, that it is going to sink. You want to make sure that it is going to stay

so that you are laying the best paths in terms of ensuring longevity and life expectancy of the fibre optic cable itself. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this page, your proposed budget represents a \$5.4 million increase for the 2018-19 fiscal year, which represents an increase of 16 percent from the previous year. What's the reason for this increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the colleague for those questions. Again, Mr. Chairman, Ms. Kimball is working on this file and knows the details in particular that my colleague is asking for, and if you can allow her to respond, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of individual items, so I can go through them.

Basically we're spending \$2.7 million on additional broadband or Internet services while we are waiting on the deployment of the new T19 infrastructure, which is launching later this year. That's giving us Galaxy Broadband services, which has allowed us to roll out improved broadband services for our schools, particularly the students that were having issues accessing. This also supports our Connected North program where we have now rolled out 24 schools that can access Connected

North.

In addition, \$160,000 is for Blue Coat content and traffic shaping tools. This is cyber security, so this is specific to cyber-security tools for operations.

The last pieces are with our Microsoft and VMware. As you know, the GN uses Microsoft Office, those basic tools, and as we rolled out core business network into communities, that means we've got more users accessing the Enterprise Licence Agreement. That's just a little over \$600,000 for that piece and then another \$1.5 million for VMware, which is like a switching tool for the communication, shipping the data across. Again, the VM tool is a cyber-security tool. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to be considerate of my colleagues here, so I'll get to the point as quickly as possible. It said in your 2017-18 priorities that one of the priorities was to "Continue to work on developing a broadband and telecommunications strategy..." What's the status of that work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe Ms. Kimball can respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The strategy that it's referring to is one from a few years prior where

they had proposed the core business network rollout to all 25 communities, and last year we completed that rollout. All 25 communities are now on the core business network. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you. Thanks for the response. Has the broadband and telecommunications strategy been completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That document is not completed yet, unfortunately, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What's the status of that strategy and when is it anticipated to be completed? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That strategy work is continuing and we are very hopeful to have it completed this year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main: Okay, so having it completed this year would be great. That leads into this question about the specific project that's listed in your business plan about the Eastern Arctic Undersea Fibre Optic Network project. We have a certain amount of information already available

about this project; broad strokes. You sent us a letter that indicated \$4 million would be provided by the federal government, and then the government has been considering allocating \$2 million for the purpose of this project. What's the status of this initiative as of today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're currently negotiating with vendors regarding this project, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Negotiating with vendors, does that mean that the \$2 million, the GN's portion, has been allocated? If so, I would like to know where it came from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. If I could, through you, have Ms. Kimball elaborate on the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, in the letter that had been circulated that mentioned the project, we had advised that we were temporarily using the Small Capital Fund and that we're seeking a supp appropriation in this sitting to reimburse the Small Capital Fund. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you

very much. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that there's also some work that's being planned in anticipation of a fibre connection. I'm just trying to understand: what is the rationale for spending money today in anticipation of something that may or may not come years from now? I would like to frame this in the context of limited funds. Wouldn't it make the most sense to upgrade to fibre connectivity when you have a fibre connection?

I'll go back to this project. What are the anticipated timelines for this? If this survey is completed this summer, what is the cost and the timeline anticipated for the next phase of actually getting a fibre connection here to Iqaluit, which I believe is the focus of that project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Yes, the work is to get fibre at this time to Iqaluit. That would relieve a huge amount of Internet time for the rest of the territory because Iqaluit is the biggest client when it comes to Internet usage.

In terms of the timelines and details, if I could have Ms. Kimball respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your question about fibre connection and why to upgrade that in advance, right now on the satellite

infrastructure, the signal comes down from the satellite into the building. It then is deployed throughout the communities by fibre. Even using satellite infrastructure, we need local fibre to get the signal from the fibre shack to the various buildings. That's kind of a separate thing from deploying undersea cable fibre.

For the undersea fibre, if negotiations go well, and so far so good, we do hope to have the undersea survey completed this summer for the Iqaluit portion and Kimmirut portion with a microwave over land as redundancy to make sure that if we do have a splice of the fibre, we're protected. If you have been following the Northwest Territories, they had some issues with fibre cuts when they had a non-redundant system. We're very mindful of that.

In terms of next steps for construction, if we get the reports in time, it's conceivable to do the design work this fall. We are hoping to put an "ask" forward in the 2019-2020 capital budget. It also coincides with some federal funding. Ultimately it will be just a decision of this Assembly if we invest in the next step, but we need this first step to determine what that cost looks like. Without the undersea study, there's a lot of variability to the costs. The purpose of the undersea study is to really know exactly what we would have to invest if we want to go to the next step. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm talking in circles now, but it comes back to the question: to what extent is CGS able to consider the factors that

exist outside of government and come back to the need for a strategy? CGS feels at this point that Iqaluit is the number one priority in terms of fibre connection. I understand there's a good rationale there, but it feels like a "shoot from the hip" type of thing.

Mr. Chairman, to the west of the Kitikmeot region there's fibre connection to Alaska that could be brought through the Northwest Passage. There's fibre to the south of my home community of Arviat in Churchill. I would like to hear that these other regions were at least taken into consideration before it was decided that this was going to be the way to go. In terms of the other regions of Nunavut... . Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the questions. Iqaluit, I believe, uses about 75 percent of bandwidth in Nunavut; 70 percent. That's a huge amount. There was opportunity here with a firm that was looking into doing an undersea study. That opportunity popped up. If we take advantage of that, we save millions of dollars. These opportunities came up at once. By taking bandwidth away from Iqaluit, that 70 percent, it really bumps up the bandwidth for the rest of Nunavummiut. It gives us an opportunity to look at fibre at, I think, the cheapest time possible. If we don't, then we have to wait until somebody like the KRC, the Kativik Regional Government is doing. We're piggybacking on that.

At this point I know our department has communicated with people in Alaska. They have no interest at this point of

going east. There are number of other parameters that deal with this issue. Again, Ms. Kimball is very well versed on this. Maybe if you could give her an opportunity to add to this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. We have reached out to Quintillion to talk about what are they doing out west. We have talked about what are their plans. We met with each of these organizations and we wanted to understand what their strategies were and where we fit into it. Unfortunately in Alaska they had some challenges through their phase 1 delivery, which resulted in some cost overruns, and their phase 2 was not coming in the structure. It was actually another priority that they had and they haven't initiated phase 2 yet, and we were phase 3.

We definitely want to work... . That's why we reached out to over 20 groups as we move forward to make sure people are aware of what we're doing and making sure that ultimately everything can plug in together because there are a number of players. There's fibre over in Labrador. We have spoken with them. We spoke with people out of Manitoba, looking at obviously a fibre line coming up, especially when we're looking at the Hudson Bay road, and had our submission into the National Trade Corridors Fund. Obviously, if that had progressed forward, that could have impacted prioritization. It makes a lot of sense to do a road, fibre, and hydro at the same time because of the synergies.

At the same time, as the minister pointed

out, KRG is moving forward with their project for Nunavik. It's very close geographically and it kind of meets our needs and the 70 percent factor. We did look at this across the whole lens of all of Nunavut, what are our different opportunities and what's available now so that we can actually make this move forward.

The new T19 satellite launching at the end of June, we're going to be through that bandwidth in two to three years and we will be back to a point where the systems are crippled again. We have to action this soon or we're going to find ourselves in some dire positions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Information Management and Information Technology. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I just have one question here. When I'm looking in the business plan, in the Telecommunications (Voice and Satellite), it's got the \$15.9 million for the next couple fiscal years, then it drops by about \$2.7 million. Just a quick explanation on why they're anticipating a drop in budget requirements in the fiscal year 2020-21. 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 respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. Right now we're running C-band services through Galaxy, NorthwTel, and SSi Micro. As we move forward with the launch of the Ka beams and there's going to be a deployment over time, we will be able to turn down some of those other services. We won't need as much services because we will be getting 5,000 megs through the Ka launch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. Thank you for that response. I think my colleague, Mr. Main, may have touched on this, but going back to that letter that was provided to the MLAs and the Minister of Finance, it spoke to an additional \$4 million would be needed to be provided by the federal government under the Building Canada Fund. Was that the \$4 million that was recently announced through the media that you guys successfully negotiated during the Northern Lights Conference? Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not new money, but it was pointed out to us that that money was available and that's where we got it from, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Community and Government Services. Information Management and Information Technology. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I get into my

questioning, I just want to point out that I noticed that CGS had advertised a new position today for the deputy minister's position. I just wanted to say that it's going to be sad to see the deputy minister go and I hope she's off to better things. She has always been a great civil servant and a dedicated employee to the government.

Also I just wanted to apologize if my line of questioning yesterday had come across a little bit direct or harsh, especially to the minister as well as his officials, both Lori Kimball and Mr. Seeley. I have heard some really great things about the ADM as well and that he's also a very dedicated civil servant. My apologies for that.

My questions regarding information management and information technology is: after conducting an analysis of prior years' expenditures, it has been identified that this department has had severe deficits in the past. I'm glad to see that the department has increased the budget for this branch to meet the prior year actuals, but there are two items that I would like to question on and that's the contract services.

If we look at the prior year actuals for 2016-17, the contract services line amount was for \$7.5 million, which was over \$3.5 million over budget in that area. I was wondering why the contract services weren't increased in 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from my colleague and I do accept your

apology, Mr. Chairman.

In terms of the question, we're having a lot of difficulty filling the positions in this particular section of our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. You stated that positions are being difficult to fill in this branch. Does it mean that those vacant positions are being filled by contract services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a 58 percent vacancy rate with that department, and because they're very specialized services required and they're very necessary, we have to fill them with the contract route. My colleague is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Community and Government Services. Information Management and Information Technology. Total Branch. \$39,447,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Flip onto page J-7. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2018-19 there's going to be quite an increase in the number of positions. Perhaps I'll say it in English. (interpretation ends) Your department's

draft plan 2018-19 main estimates indicates that the number of positions in the department's Property and Asset Management Division is projected to increase from 70 PYs for the 2017-18 fiscal year to 96 positions for this fiscal year, which represents a 37.1 percent increase. Why does the division need an additional 26 positions and what functions will they perform?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. The reason behind that high increase is we're taking the settlement maintainers that were under contract with municipalities and putting them directly within our department. That's what that is for the most part, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood it correctly, the hamlet maintainers are going to be working under the government. Is that how I understand it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's something along those lines. As you may be aware, in some communities we usually have an agreement with the hamlet that settlement maintainers would be under the direction of the hamlet council. Under an agreement, they

would now be under the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlet and government employees are working for two different entities. If those settlement maintainers go under your department, would that delete one position from the hamlet council or are they going to be working for both? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The settlement maintainers work on government buildings and they will still be working on those buildings, but they would be under the government and the hamlet will no longer be contracted for that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft plan, 2018-19 main estimates indicate that the budget for the Property and Asset Management Division is projected to increase from \$16,603,000 for the 2017-18 fiscal year to \$24,142,000 for the 2018-19 fiscal year. This represents an increase of 45.4 percent in addition to the compensation and benefits costs for its 2016 employees. What accounts for this increase? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you

very much. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate my colleague's question. If I could, through you, have Ms. Kimball respond to those numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That particular increase on property services is actually related to the acquisition of the NCC building, so it's the additional lease relating to the NCC building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's 2014-17 business plan indicates that one of the priorities for that fiscal year was to "Finalize and begin implementation of the Office Space Strategy." In recent years your department had issued a number of requests for proposals for office space in different communities. How many of these RFPs were successful in identifying leased office space and how many were unsuccessful? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. If I could have a second, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Ms. Kimball respond to that question from my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the data on how many RFPs were issued. I don't have the data broken down into successful and unsuccessful, but I can get that information for you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What specific actions will your department be taking during the 2018-19 fiscal year to address the issue of office space in communities outside of Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of office space or lack thereof is something that we are constantly trying to work out with all the departments that we try to find or work with in terms of office space. That is ongoing. We will continue to try to find, where we can, office space. It's an ongoing battle. In some communities we have office space, but it needs improvement. In some communities we don't have any office space, like my colleague from Sanikiluaq will attest, so it's a constant struggle. It's one that we are constantly trying to figure out how and where we could do it and we will continue down that road, consulting with municipalities, consulting with MLAs and the business sector in trying to deal with the shortage of office space in communities outside of Iqaluit, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Community and Government Services.

Infrastructure. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
Welcome, minister and your officials.

My first question is regarding infrastructure since we are dealing with infrastructure. I know that I tabled a letter that the hamlet council addressed to the CGS minister.

The old nursing station in Baker Lake was managed by CGS and it was used as a space for the shelter, alcohol education committee, and the nutrition program, but the furnace room had a safety issue. They closed the facility once they found out about the issue. These service providers I just mentioned have no office space. What is the Department of Community and Government Services doing about it? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):
Thank you. The tenants of the building that you're talking about have not asked us or put in a request as to what they would like to do. We can't really do anything until they submit a request. Mr. Chairman, that's how it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):
Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. The Hamlet Council of Baker Lake held a meeting before the spring session and they moved and passed a motion that they need new office space. The three programs that I just referred to, the

nutrition program, shelter, and the alcohol education committee, were all housed in the same facility, but they closed the building down. They have no space and there is no office for them.

The Hamlet Council of Baker Lake made and passed a motion to make sure they secure the office space they require. I know the correspondence was tabled, but I don't know if the minister received the letter or not. Once you receive it, can you consider these issues in future planning? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Mikkungwak for asking about that. I received the correspondence from the hamlet council around April 13 or 15, not too long ago. The letter of correspondence we had received is now being reviewed. We would like to make sure that they get office space, but sometimes it's impossible. We would like to see what the community's priorities are. Through the letter of correspondence, perhaps they should put it in their priorities.

We will look into the facility you're talking about and find out the status of this issue with the tenants referred to in the letter we received recently. I will work with you and the municipality to make sure we follow through with the process. I know that this is a priority and it is urgent, but we have to follow procedures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As the minister is aware, the old health centre, which is a yellow building, is right in the middle of the community. Looking at the growth of the community, it's right in the middle of the community.

My colleagues talk about lowering our expenditures and saving funds. However, my colleague from Sanikiluaq, to use his example, asked the government about an empty facility that sat idle for many years before work finally commenced on the facility.

With these examples and looking at where the lot is situated, it is right in the centre of the community. I wonder how it would be demolished. As it contains hazardous materials, I wonder what work is required to clean up this site. That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): For buildings containing hazardous materials that require demolition, we would need to hire specialized contractors to deal with the hazardous materials as part of the overall demolition project. This is to ensure that it is contained and doesn't end up in the surrounding environment. That is how they would deal with any hazardous materials.

Further, I believe an RFP would have to be issued and it would list the building requiring demolition as containing certain hazardous materials. The details would be contained in the RFP. The demolition can't proceed just like that.

This is what actually leads to delays in demolitions since the investigation has to first determine if the facility is salvageable. When communities identify an unused facility that they want, it requires a thorough investigation before the facility can be released to the body requesting it so that it isn't a safety hazard. These are part of the reasons for these delays. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I responded to my colleague's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. It is clear that if the building is going to be demolished, it will have to be communicated to the residents of Baker Lake primarily because it is in close proximity to the existing elders facility and it is across from the health centre. The elders facility is currently closed and is scheduled for renovations and is right next to this building. That is the situation as it exists now.

With that, I now ask: if the building will be demolished, will the project be funded by Community and Government Services since the department requested funding from the federal government? I would like to know which facility will receive this federal funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to federal funding, we will not receive any funds from them towards demolishing buildings, only for the construction of new facilities.

Nonetheless, we would require funds to demolish the building and funds would be found for the building demolition by the government, and we would ensure that it does not cause safety issues. They would look at all factors, both within proximity and distant from the building. We both know that in our region, the wind can whip up quite suddenly and cause materials to be blown away. This would be closely investigated by our officials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that response. Moving to a different issue, this building which is owned by Community and Government Services in Baker Lake was originally a (interpretation ends) DPW building. (interpretation) It is across from our Northern Store. Part of the building caught fire in the past and it was in the garage section of the building. The garage was used by the wildlife officer and it was part of their wildlife offices. As well, it previously served as an office for the Department of Community and Government Services.

Nonetheless, since it was no longer in use, many residents felt that it would be appropriate for the Baker Lake SAR group and wondered whether that could be arranged. The burnt area suffered smoke damage, but it can be renovated. Also, it is quite close to the beach and SAR teams would not have far to go when leaving or arriving to the community as it is in an ideal location. I wonder what the department thinks about the idea of donating the building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I can picture the building that you're talking about and we will look into it. As you stated, it can be renovated. I know it's possible, but as we're aware, when any building is inspected, sometimes we find safety hazards. We will look into it and if it can be used, we will work with you and the municipality to make sure it happens. We wouldn't want to dispose of a building when it can be used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I just have one question here. In the Utilities Management section, you've got a decrease from last year's budget of almost \$2.5 million. As we have often seen the trend, budgets are usually going up, and I commend the department. I'm just curious to see what type of efficiencies or what has led to this decrease in the requested budget amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Simply I appreciate the question. It's a budget adjustment in terms of the oil price base adjustment and the transfer of the old res. O&M funding to the NAC budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: I'm going to be treading a thin line here, Mr. Chairman, and hopefully you will allow the question. The minister just mentioned the O&M funding for the old res. As anyone who flies into the community of Iqaluit, there's this great big monstrosity that's sitting there. I do realize it's a capital, but with the O&M mentioned for that facility, I hope you will allow it. What is the plan for that building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Infrastructure, so Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know many people who have slept in that building at one time or another. Mr. Chairman, at this point I don't know. We don't know at this point and I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When it comes to the government's inventory of owned and leased facilities, I understand that some of them, the NCC properties, they're currently under a lease-to-own agreement. Has this approach been looked at for any other facilities across Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could, through you, have Ms. Kimball respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lease-to-own option, one of the challenges when you have a longer term lease, it's called a capital lease. When you have that lease-to-own piece, it automatically triggers a capital lease. What that means is it actually gets recorded as debt for the government when you enter into that lease, which affects our debt cap that's imposed by Canada. We have to be very careful about when we utilize those tools because it takes away our borrowing capacity to do other things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following that line of logic, if I will call it that, if it wasn't for the debt cap, would it make sense? I'm trying not to be hypothetical; I'm trying to be realistic here. If it wasn't for the debt cap, if we could get a higher debt cap, would it help CGS in terms of eventually owning some more of these facilities instead of continually paying out lease costs? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question in trying not to get hypothetical, but it would help the government a lot, I think, if we were to be able to go down that route. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

guess I'll just comment that I'm frustrated by the issue of the debt cap. We have this huge infrastructure deficit as a territory and we're being handcuffed by our own federal government. In terms of what we can do as a government, I support your department completely in terms of trying to advance our needs infrastructure-wise.

In terms of environmental liabilities, is there a tracking list kept in terms of abandoned buildings and things like asbestos, maybe contaminated real estate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of oil spills and that part of the environmental issue, I believe the Department of Environment tracks that, but as for the other part, no, we don't have that tracked at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: In terms of government buildings that have asbestos or other nasty things in them, does CGS have any idea of how much they're looking at? I'll use the building in Sanikiluaq for an example that has been torn down. For these types of old buildings across the territory, do we know how many we have and how much it would cost to clean them all up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

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

do track that in terms of if we do building or infrastructure assessments and we see areas of concern, such as asbestos and stuff like that. We do track it that way when we're doing conditional assessments, and then we do the cost and benefit analysis and stuff like that. I hope that answers part of his question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's great to hear that the department is tracking that. Would the department be willing to share some version of that information with the members at a later date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We could, I guess. I don't see why we wouldn't, but it just takes time to gather all that information and get it to a point where it's digestible. There's no reason why we couldn't share it with you. It definitely wouldn't be this week, but at a later time when we are able to collect that kind of data, put a couple of people onto it and put it together, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're on the topic of infrastructure, I would like to bring up the topic of condition ratings for buildings. I'll give you two specific examples. There's the old hamlet office in Whale Cove that's currently being used as office space for various functions and it's in very poor condition. There are holes in the floor. It's actually

being used as an income support office.

Another example is the Head Start building in Arviat, which is approximately 40 years old. Children are currently going there on a daily basis for early childhood programs. It's my understanding that the government has taken the position that that building is at the end of its lifecycle, so they don't want to put any more money into it. The replacement was supposed to be in the new Arviat school, which got scratched off the capital budget a few years back.

I'm not just speaking for Arviat and Whale Cove but other communities. What is the system in terms of condition ratings and identifying "These are the buildings that are the highest need and these are the ones in the worst condition" in terms of our workers, the government's workers, and our children, for example? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. In terms of your constituencies and in particular like in Whale Cove, I used to have my constituency office in that old hamlet office. That's a municipal building, so the municipality would be responsible for maintaining that.

In terms of condition ratings for government infrastructure, if I could have Ms. Kimball elaborate on that portion of it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the government's infrastructure assets are tracked in a

software tool called AssetPlanner. When we do the condition assessments, it does a scorecard of the degree of repair and what's needed. That's actually used in our prioritization for CGS to determine the order in which we address repairs that are required throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That brings up a memory. We have had some discussion about a report that was prepared by a consultant in terms of a listing of the government's assets and condition ratings. I believe there was a commitment to provide us with that information. I apologize that I'm unable to remember the specific name of the company, but it was through CGS and it was quite a large contract to go across the territory and look at conditions. Can we get that information from the department at some point? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe he's referring to Stantec, back in 2012. We will see if we can provide that information to my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: We will see if we can provide that information, "can" being the key word there, I would hope.

I'll go back to my examples and then I'll wrap up. In Whale Cove the old hamlet office, yes, it's a municipal asset, but it's a GN office, income support, right? That's a GN function, so there's a GN

worker or workers in that building. It's six of one and half a dozen of the other. At the end of the day it's the workers that I'm concerned about.

With regard to the Arviat Head Start building, would his department be able to review that asset just in terms of what you have on file to make sure that it meets all the current standards and that it is being maintained? There are young children in that building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will provide you with that information you are requesting in the "can" or "will," for sure.

In terms of there being tenants in the old Whale Cove hamlet office, I guess we could talk to the municipality about improving the building that we are leasing from them. Our department will look into the building in Arviat and go from there. If it's our building, of course we will look at it. If not, leave it with our department and we will look into it and I'll get back to the member from Arviat on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two areas that I would like to address with infrastructure, reviewing prior year trends. The first issue I would like to address is the other expenses. The actuals for 2016-17, there's \$1.8 million, the year before that

it was \$2 million, and now the department has a budget of \$400,000. I was wondering if that \$400,000 is an accurate prediction for the needs of 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I, through you, have Ms. Kimball respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have with me the breakdown of the \$1.8 million and what was spent, but I can speak to what goes through the other line item. The other line item, one of the most substantial portions of that budget, is hardware and software, so tools and technologies we use to support the Infrastructure Branch. We have software called e-Builder to track all of our large project management and we have the AssetPlanner tool to track all of our lifecycle management, as well as the other hardware and software to support those tools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you for that response. Will e-Builder and AssetPlanner require a substantial amount of expenditures in 2018-19? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the question. Around \$100,000, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to the next item and that's contract services. In 2016-17 the branch had expenditures of \$31 million, which was about average for the three prior years. In 2016-17, with that \$31 million expenditure, there was a lapse of \$9 million in that line item. I was wondering if the department foresees continuing that \$30 million trend and if that \$40 million budget is necessary for contract services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I please have Ms. Kimball respond to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the changes to the budget for that line item is the impact of the NCC purchases, so that's impacting that contract services and that lease cost. That's one of the major changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Infrastructure. Community and Government Services. Total Branch. \$125,815,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Flip onto page J-8. Community and Government Services. Petroleum Products Division. Although the Petroleum Products Division is an information item only, I

will open the floor for questions. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions on this page. Recently we have been noticing that the price of fuel is steadily on the increase. I'm wondering if the department can update us today whether or not they have purchased all fuel for delivery to the communities for this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have purchased all the gasoline requirements for Nunavut for the shipping season, but as for P50 and other fuel products, we have not purchased them yet at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, you did not purchase any other fuels yet or a portion of the diesel and aviation fuels. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not purchased any other fuel except gasoline at this point, but the plan this week is to begin the purchase of the other fuel products, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if my next

comment is a question or not, but we will see how it goes.

I guess it's more on a planning procedure in our communities when you upgrade our tank farms. We have a dispenser for our gasoline, we have a dispenser diesel fuel for trucks, and we have a dispenser refilling the diesel truck for around the community, and it's all confined within to about four feet. When the fuel truck is filling up, he parks sideways because they fill up from the sides, so then a municipal truck cannot fill up and people can't pump gas until this truck moves away.

I think, from a planning perspective, you should really look at giving some separation to the three types of fuels that are being dispensed so that consumers don't have to wait in order to get their fuel each time when the truck is fuelling up. I will leave that as a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I take that as a comment. Following the list of names, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I just have one question here, but we will see how the response comes.

I note with interest on page J-8 where, on the very bottom, it goes to the surplus or deficit of the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund, where in 2017-18 it's got a little over \$9 million of a surplus, yet they're projecting only an \$86,000 surplus in the 2018-19 fiscal year. I was just wondering if the minister can explain how or why they were going to eat up over \$9 million in the surplus of the revolving fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, if we recall last year, the government reduced fuel prices and the prices went up and that's why there is that difference on that line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to confirm, when fuel prices are established, although the minister said they haven't purchased their fuel yet or all of their fuel, how do you anticipate setting your expectations on using up the surplus funds in there right now? Are you anticipating a lower increase than what would normally be driven by the market, utilizing that surplus to keep the fuel rates at a lower level than what you had portrayed to the consumer, or is this a strategy of Community and Government Services to keep that as level as possible at the surplus/deficit?

My concern there is it does have a \$10 million allowance of a fluctuation from negative to positive of \$10 million, and I realize that fuel price volatility is a reality. My concern is if the price increases again next year where we do not have that cushion of the surplus, the consumer may get hit even harder, where maybe a smaller hit now equals a smaller hit later. Just some clarity from the minister on their strategy for more of a medium term on their fuel pricing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: The strategy is

not to increase fuel prices, quite simply. Mr. Chairman, the reason that we are going out to purchase fuel this week is the fuel prices, if you have paid attention, which I'm sure you did, are down to January prices at this point. If we can purchase them now, then we will get them at a good price.

We purchase our fuel before June for the gasoline because the people who produce gasoline stop producing winter-grade fuel in June. That is why we have to purchase it while it's got the highest octane, anti-freeze stuff, and everything else in there, which is what we need here.

In terms of setting the prices for the fall, I don't anticipate we will be increasing any fuel prices. We will take a look at the cost of the fuel, cost of delivering, and all of those parameters put together and come up with prices for our fuel products. I don't anticipate at this time that there would be an increase, Mr. Chairman.

You are correct; we can't have too much in the kitty and we don't want to get into a point where we are in a deficit with it also, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister read my mind with the winter fuel additives and stuff and the timing of the purchase. That was going to be my next question. I will leave it alone at this point. We will look at the fuel pricing in the fall. I'm sure that if there are any dramatic increases or even decreases, the minister will be able to account to them then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to follow suit with Mr. Hickes' questions. In 2016-17 PPD had sales of \$193 million and expenditures of \$171 million, with a net surplus of \$21.9 million. As Mr. Hickes alluded, the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund allows for the \$10 million subsidization rider.

In the Public Accounts for 2016-17, the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund was in a deficit position of over \$7 million, but after incorporating this \$20 million surplus, PPD had to give over \$3 million to the GN in what I see as overcharging Nunavummiut for their gas. What I'm saying is that in 2016-17 they overcharged us for our gas and had a surplus of \$21 million.

I was wondering: what sort of position is the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund at currently, as of today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the \$3 million, we didn't give it back to the GN. Maybe I could have my deputy elaborate on that topic, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This past year the PPD audit ended later than normal and, as a result, the GN had to close the books with estimates. This \$21.9 million was based on estimates. The actual final numbers

came in \$4 million less, so we did not exceed the stabilization fund balance. I believe we ended the year, I think, around positive \$7 million or \$8 million, is what I'm remembering. This year we are showing a slight loss, but we're still going to be above the zero mark, so we're still going to be in that positive position in the stabilization fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Following the list of names, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While speaking on the topic of fuel earlier, I thought of something I want to ask questions about.

Private homeowners in Nunavut are experiencing severe stress and difficulties. I should use examples from Arviat as some of the private homeowners can't afford to buy heating fuel during the winter. I believe I may be directed to the housing corporation minister, but I've had an idea for quite some time to benefit homeowners, and this applies to the cost of heating fuel at the (interpretation ends) point of sale (interpretation) for homeowners and whether we can provide a discount.

I know that yes, it should go through the proper channels, and we were told that the price would not increase. However, I feel we should look at all avenues to alleviate the challenges faced by our homeowners. Where should it start? Perhaps through PPD or the housing corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this can be dealt with by the Department of Community and Government Services, or by using other departments or it might include the departments of Finance and Education or through the various avenues the government uses, as our department provides the fuel for sale. The other departments provide various support programs for elders, the unemployed, students, and the like. I believe we should use existing government support programs to look at that idea, as I believe it could be studied for feasibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Yes, indeed, when the departments you listed are in front of us, I will raise those questions again on this matter.

Nonetheless, to move on to naphtha, it is a very important fuel for hunters and it is used everywhere. Within the documentation it states that naphtha is sold in metal cans. However, hunters state that the cans are quite expensive and (interpretation ends) inefficient, (interpretation) especially if you want to buy a lot of naphtha and are a hunter.

Has the department ever considered selling naphtha using (interpretation ends) bulk sales (interpretation) with large metal drums perhaps, or to have it available at the fuel pump stations. (interpretation ends) Has the department considered looking into the area of bulk sales of naphtha and maybe setting up a pilot project in Arviat, for example, or some other community with many

harvesters? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. There are 25 communities. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Chairman, maybe in Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and Cambridge Bay.

>>*Laughter*

I appreciate my colleague's humour, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, there are issues with bulk sales of naphtha and our department recently found out the reason. The reason we sell them in cans is because they're so combustible. If we had a tank farm with naphtha, it could cause severe damage. They could explode, they're so explosive, but we are looking into seeing if we can't maybe get some that you can sell in half gallons or two gallons or different sizes and maybe in something that's not so easy to rupture as the tin that they come in right now. We are looking at those options. We did check into the bulk issue when we had conversations on this earlier in the year, but it's just so combustible that we were advised to stay away from trying to get into bulk sales like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe I'll just clarify. When I was referring to bulk sales, I was thinking drums, not necessarily a whole tank farm or a full tank of naphtha, but dispensing

it from drums, which I have seen done by the private sector in other places in Nunavut. No further questions, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question in relation to the member from Sanikiluaq's question. The minister said that they have already bought the gasoline and they haven't bought the heating fuel yet. Why have they only bought gasoline to date? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. We usually purchase gasoline earlier and the winterized fuel in June. They only produce summer products after that time. Up north usually there's antifreeze in there, deicers, and higher octane. We usually purchase it earlier. This time around the (interpretation ends) fuel oil (interpretation) and aviation fuel were fluctuating, and right now it can be purchased at a pretty low rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that's clear.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister as I finally understand the process. That's the only question I had. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends)

Community and Government Services. Petroleum Products Division. Since we don't actually approve this page, go to page J-3. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Total Department. \$263,403,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, let me begin by thanking my colleagues here for a very good line of questioning. I appreciate them very much and we learn from it. I assure you that when we're asked to look into issues such as the naphtha and stuff, we do look into it and we will look into seeing if we can't dispense it in those smaller drums, for an example. We will go on from there. I appreciate the tough line of questioning you give us.

Our department is a massive one and sometimes it's hard to bring all the details and predict what kind of detailed information my colleagues here want. If we were to do that, we would have books and books of binders here. I appreciate the patience you give us in terms of getting back to you with those details. Our staff here and that are listening are looking for those details we said we would provide and we will provide them for you.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I've had the

pleasure of working with my deputy minister. From day one she has been very supportive of me. She has been very supportive and strong in our Department of Community and Government Services. I assure you it's the biggest... .

>> *Applause*

It's the biggest and most complex department and somehow she manages to keep her head wrapped around it. She did an amazing job and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours. If she gets bored doing that, she can always come back north. Thank you so much.

Also to my left, a bright, young individual who is very good in our department and so are all our staff. I just want to thank Kyle also for his tremendous support this week and *qujannamiiraaluk*. Thank you very much.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, minister. Ms. Kimball, I wish you well in your future endeavours. Thank you very much for serving Nunavummiut during your time at Community and Government Services. I wish you well in the future and safe travels.

With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

(interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to request a motion to report progress at this time.

Thank you.

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 to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): 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 (interpretation): Thank you very much, 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 is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk.

>>*Laughter*

The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. The motion is carried.

Going back 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 that the Standing Committee on Legislation

meets tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for May 31:

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 (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned until
Thursday, May 31, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:57*

