



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 17

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Pages 1139 – 1191

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Joe Enook
(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

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

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(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 Joanasi
(South Baffin)

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

Joelie Kaernek
(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

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

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

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

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, June 14, 2018**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaernerck, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, 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, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 9:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Joe Enook)
(interpretation): Let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: *Ullaakkut*, Premier (interpretation) and members. Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, welcome to your Legislative Assembly. In particular our elders of Nunavut, I hope you have a good day.

We will now proceed directly to the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 060 – 5(2):
National Seal Products Day**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut and residents of my community, as well as my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to tell my colleagues about the National Seal Products Day event that I attended in St. John's on May 17. The event was organized by the Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador and was hosted by its provincial government at the Confederation Building of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, as Premier of Nunavut, I attended to show our government's support for sealing in both Newfoundland and Labrador and our territory: our people, our livelihood, and our culture.

>>*Applause*

I had the opportunity to speak at this important event about our mutual issues and interests with regard to sealing and the environmental, economic and cultural importance of the sealing industry.

Mr. Speaker, the event reflects last year's federal recognition of National Seal Products Day, which was passed into law on May 16, 2017.

I would like to thank the Government Newfoundland and Labrador for warmly welcoming me and for inviting me as an honoured guest in Newfoundland and Labrador's House of Assembly.

It was truly an honour to represent Nunavummiut and show our wholehearted support for the sealing

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

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 061 – 5(2):
Student Support Assistant
Training**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, inclusive education promotes a model of education where all students have access to the education program with their peers because all students are provided the supports they need to meet their learning needs.

Student support assistants support inclusive education by working with classroom teachers to address the unique needs of students, whatever those needs may be.

Mr. Speaker, my department is prioritizing training to student support assistants to enhance their skills. In fact close to 100 student support assistants came together in four communities, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Pangnirtung, and Iqaluit, for the first ever territorial training that occurred in February. The training focused on two areas: supporting students with complex behaviours and an introduction to self-care. Because not all student support assistants wish to travel, some chose to stay in their home community and follow a self-directed learning module,

which was provided in advance.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, there are currently around 170 student support assistant positions in the territory but few professional development opportunities. Therefore my department is trying to change that. This year's face-to-face territorial training builds on the self-directed learning modules available during professional development week in 2015-16 and 2016-17, which student support assistants followed independently in their home communities.

On the whole, territorial training for student support assistants reinforces inclusive education in schools by increasing the capacity of the education staff who provide additional supports in classrooms so that all students can access the education program with their peers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Minister's Statement 062 – 5(2):
Coroner's Inquest and
Recommendations**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to offer my deepest condolences to the family of Amelia Keyoota. I know that this has been a difficult time for the family, staff, and community members.

Under section 21 of the Nunavut *Coroners Act*, it is mandatory for the

Office of the Chief Coroner to hold an inquest into the death of a person in the care of an institution.

As most of you are aware, the inquest took place from April 23 to 27. During this time the jury made 22 recommendations for the Government of Nunavut, 18 of which affect the Department of Family Services. The Department of Family Services accepts the recommendations from the jury and is working to address them.

The department has already begun addressing certain recommendations with respect to the training of frontline staff and monitoring caseloads of frontline staff. Additionally, the department recognizes the importance of supporting clients through healing-based programming, which is why the department continues to train its frontline staff in *Inunnguiniq* parenting, which revitalizes *Inunnguiniq* practices while also offering healing opportunities.

Further, I am pleased to report that the department is receiving funding over the next three years to strengthen its foster care program through training and other resources for foster parents.

Mr. Speaker, one of the priorities of [*Turaaqtavut*] is working towards the well-being and self-reliance of our people and our communities through *Inuusivut*. The Department of Family Services is working hard to achieve this priority through providing proactive, prevention-based supports to individuals, families, and communities.

Mr. Speaker, the department has one year to provide the coroner's office with

a response to the jury's recommendations, at which time I will table the response in the House. In the interim I will provide the members with regular updates on the status of the department's work to address the recommendations. I look forward to providing the first response during the fall of 2018. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 063 – 5(2):
Retirement of Dr. Sandy
Macdonald**

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to you and please feel welcome.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, one the biggest challenges faced by Nunavut's health care system is the shortage of medical professionals in our territory.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Sandy Macdonald for his 17 and a half years of service to Nunavut...

>> *Applause*

...both as a physician and as a leader in the development of health care in our territory.

Sandy came to Nunavut in 2001, serving as the first territorial director of medical affairs and later as territorial chief of staff. In these roles he worked to develop

organizations and programs that strengthened our health care system and increased access to medical care for all Nunavummiut. He also served as community physician for the communities of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord for ten years.

Mr. Speaker, one of our government's priorities is to enhance the health care services that are available in the territory. I am confident that we will succeed in that goal, and no small part of our success will be due to the hard work of long-serving, Nunavut-based medical professionals like Dr. Macdonald.

Sandy is moving from Iqaluit at the end of this month but will be doing community clinics in Gjoa Haven until December. Please join me in thanking him and wishing him a great retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 064 – 5(2):
Community Support for
Community Freezer Projects**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and our government are mandated to improve economic opportunities and to encourage community self-reliance and local employment through traditional

industries, including the harvesting sector of our economy.

I am pleased to announce that through the Country Food Distribution Program, the Federal-Territorial Growing Forward 2 Program, and with support from CanNor, the department has overseen the investment of \$2.66 million in community freezer projects in Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Qikiqtarjuaq, Whale Cove, and Taloyoak since the 2016-17 year.

The investments in this new infrastructure will ensure that communities have a safe place to store country food and that harvesters have a space to distribute country food for their communities and to sell their country food to the region.

Mr. Speaker, the department is pleased to make this announcement knowing that this infrastructure will allow the next generation to continue harvesting and thriving off our land for many years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 101 – 5(2):
Working as a Representative**

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and residents of my community.

I rise this morning to comment that as a new Member of the Legislative Assembly, in being elected to this position, one wants to fully represent our constituents. It can get confusing, sometimes very stressful and difficult when you make a mistake. These serve to teach you lessons, which I have learned as the old saying is you sometimes need to make mistakes in order to learn the lesson. I start to perspire on occasion, but I overcome it to rise and speak, and now I am past my nervousness and can relax more.

Mr. Speaker, our role as legislators can become quite difficult on occasion, yet I will continue to work hard in my role. I learned quite a lot on the way the Legislative Assembly works and our role as MLAs in representing our constituents.

Now, this other subject I wish to talk about is the fact that today is the last day of our session before our summer break. I hope everyone will have a great spring, a great summer and ensure you are always prepared so that you don't encounter dangerous situations so you can all return here to the Legislative Assembly.

I wish to express my thanks to our interpreters, the staff, and everyone here at the Legislative Assembly, including the listening audience. I can speak English, but I prefer to use Inuktitut as we have interpretation, so I thank them immensely.

Even though it may have come to this, we must continue to always take care, even when it seems our path is difficult. One must endure and be resilient, especially the youth. You have a bright

future and I am advising you of this fact. Keep going. As I have stated previously, you must try to remember that our elders are our foundation and we must keep them there.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): To the youth, don't let life's challenges deter you as life continues, and the challenges you face are meant to teach you lessons.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Absolutely!

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): The mistakes we make and the challenges we face are part of life's lesson, so be resilient and never give up. Strive to keep moving forward. I will conclude my statement at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 102 – 5(2):
Working Together to Represent
Constituents**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't raise my hand, but I thank you for recognizing me.

>> *Laughter*

To all my colleagues, I have been pleased and happy with you; shared frustrations and we must continue our work here in all our different roles in the Legislative Assembly and outside of the

House.

As we will all be travelling home soon, I wish everyone to have a safe spring and as our colleague from Amittuq intoned, be safe so we can all return back here this fall for our session.

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to all of my colleagues, to our staff and interpreters, to the Speaker, to our Premier and his cabinet along with our government. Let us work closely together in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Let's see if I'm right. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

**Member's Statement 103 – 5(2):
Marine Infrastructure for
Qikiqtarjuaq**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, as well as to the people listening to and watching the proceedings. Good morning to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the importance of investing in modern marine infrastructure for our communities.

Mr. Speaker, in 2017 the Government of Nunavut submitted a number of projects to the federal government for consideration under the National Trade Corridors Fund. One of the proposals was for new marine infrastructure in Qikiqtarjuaq. As the House is aware, I

have been advocating for this project for a number of years and it remains a major priority for the community of Qikiqtarjuaq.

Last month CBC News reported that the federal government rejected this project, along with a number of submissions. As my colleagues will understand, this news was deeply disappointing to the community of Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago the Canadian North Economic Development Agency announced \$2.5 million in funding for fisheries-related initiatives in Nunavut, including "the development of an inshore turbot fishery in Qikiqtarjuaq." This is good news and I want to publicly express my appreciation for the investment.

Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

However, although I am very pleased that one arm of the federal government recognizes the great economic potential of the fishing industry, I am very disappointed that a different arm of the federal government is not making necessary infrastructure investments to support the development of a sustainable fishing industry that would greatly help to reduce poverty in my constituency.

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

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

**Member's Statement 104 – 5(2):
Recent Graduates at Nunavut
Arctic College**

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. To the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, I miss you and wish you a wonderful morning.

Now, yesterday I was extremely proud as I attended a ceremony where I saw for the first time our daughter-in-law, Clara Akulukjuk, who graduated from NTEP. She is the partner of my beloved son, Jarvis Tasiuq, and they have a son, Cael. I was extremely gratified when her grandparents flew down from Pangnirtung to attend their granddaughter's graduation from NTEP, so I thank Malaya and Jarlo Akulukjuk and their mother.

We should always partake in these ceremonies as parents whenever our children graduate, as Nunavut has gained more credentials.

As well, the other graduate who has a grandmother in Chesterfield Inlet and just became a nurse is Eva Tanuyak's granddaughter Mavis Arnatsiaq Ell. I was deeply moved to see her become a nurse who will service residents of Nunavut. She is named after her late grandfather George Tanuyak as she is

called Arnatsiaq. In watching the graduation when she became a nurse, she came from a smaller community of Coral Harbour with a grandmother in Chesterfield Inlet, everyone felt proud as she is quite young and has become a nurse.

These two were ones I recognized. I also wish to acknowledge this person, whom I feel has far more capabilities than I do in sewing. I grew up with her grandmother while she grew up with my parents. My younger sister Mona Netsker's sewing products can be seen in all places such as in the south and across the ocean as they are ordered from all different places. I thank her for being more capable than I, but I won't sing that song about my younger sibling being far more capable than I. Thank you and good morning.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 105 – 5(2):
Grand Opening of Pangnirtung
Co-op**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and the people of Pangnirtung who are watching and listening to the proceedings.

I also want to voice my congratulations as yesterday I wasn't able to attend the opening ceremony with my fellow residents. Our community isn't that large, but this required many years of planning and it was only recently that members finally started to receive their

dividends from the local Co-op.

Pangnirtung is now blessed with a brand-new store. It is quite spacious with a restaurant and a bank kiosk as well. I wanted to voice my pleasure for their successful completion and especially the board members, past board members, and others who dedicated themselves towards this goal. I am extremely proud of Pangnirtung residents. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 106 – 5(2):
Addressing Issues of Family
Violence**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we're fully aware, violence against women affects every community in Canada, but in Nunavut we're facing an epidemic with rates 13 times higher than the national average.

I would like to thank the Department of Family Services for providing funding for emergency shelters, but I would also like to state that these emergency shelters are stretched beyond their limits. There's currently no funding available to help these women and children who are fleeing from domestic violence to get out of these emergency shelters and transition back into independent living.

The Nunavut Homelessness Action Plan that is currently under review will include second-stage housing research. For the safety of our families, I highly encourage our government to make funding available to our non-profit

organizations for the operation of second-stage housing as well as offering capital contributions for the construction of these much-needed facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 107 – 5(2):
Reflections on the Passage of Bill 4**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you. I just about called you Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

My colleagues, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and ministers, at this time I want to inform my constituents that I will be returning home shortly. To all going fishing, setting nets, and hunting, I am envious of your freedom. Nonetheless, we have a large workload and I wanted to express my pride in my colleagues, which is why I rise today.

Yesterday, actually late last night we approved the 2018-19 main estimates, where approximately \$1.6 billion was approved in consensus with each other. There was a mountain of papers we were required to read, including many financial figures, and sometimes in trying to decipher it, my eyes would start to cross on occasion.

Nevertheless, we as MLAs are working on behalf of Nunavummiut. We were elected to represent them and to come to decisions on their behalf. We can accept this responsibility by approving or not approving what is in front of us, as that

is the basis of our role. Sometimes it can be very confusing when one doesn't fully understand the details, but this is what we were elected to do.

To my constituents, I wish to inform them that I haven't forgotten you, the residents of Arviat and Whale Cove, as I still am deeply gratified that you chose me in the elections. As a regular member, I will continue to work on your behalf and I have no ambition to try for the premiership or to become a minister. I had made it clear in my campaign that I would be a regular member. I have been asked about my plans, but here I am. I have not changed one iota of this decision as I won't forget my constituents both in Arviat and Whale Cove and I will continue to represent them in the Assembly with all of my capabilities.

Have a good summer and be safe if you're going out on the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Member's Statement 108 – 5(2):
Recent High School Graduates in
Nunavut**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're into June and I have seen more birds around and the snow is melting very fast, especially after the little rain we had yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take this time to congratulate all the graduates not only here in Iqaluit but all across the

territory. We continuously talk about how important youth are to future of this territory and it has never been more important than it is today. With the numbers of youth and the opportunities that are provided for employment and education for our residents, the time is for them to look forward to a very bright future, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's very important that we sit back and realize on how much of a part our youth play in the decisions that we make here in our House because those students today who are graduating or still in our school system are our future. I look forward to a very bright and prosperous future for Nunavut.

I wish all of my colleagues and everyone across the territory a safe and happy summer, visiting with friends and family, getting out on the land, and just getting in touch with our neighbours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 109 – 5(2): Coral
Harbour Nursing Graduate**

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I say "good morning" to the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour. This spring when we first arrived here, the end date seemed so far off as we commenced our sitting. However, we have reached the end and we stand today joyous, isn't that true?

>>Laughter

>> *Applause*

Everything eventually passes. Although we are in the throes of a beautiful spring, we managed to complete our work even with bouts of disagreement, but we are working for Nunavummiut.

Yesterday this young graduate became a nurse and we are extremely proud of her, as her accomplishment is praiseworthy. She is a resident of Coral Harbour, the daughter of Ittukallak, and this endearment term was given to her father, Ben Ell, and her mother, Rosie.

We are very pleased as everyone takes great pride in her accomplishment, as we will now have a nurse who wants to remain in Coral Harbour and that she doesn't want to move elsewhere. That is doubly gratifying.

>> *Applause*

When I am feeling under the weather, I rarely even bother to go to the health centre. It is only when I feel overcome with sickness that I will go to the health centre. Now when I feel even a little bit sick, I shall now go to our health centre.

>> *Laughter*

Have a good spring and summer and we shall see each other again, without the need for introductions as we have learned about each other as people and as members. We are now working singularly in the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 110 – 5(2): 2018
High School Graduates of
Kimmirut**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of South Baffin, Kimmirut and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate grade 12 graduates in Kimmirut at the Qaqqalik School. They are:

- Meeka Temela,
- Alice Kolola,
- Laila Onalik,
- Nooshoota Simeonie Padluq,
- Tommy Lyta,
- Patsau Akpik, and
- Ikalik Padluq

Mr. Speaker, they will receive their diploma for completing grade 12. We are proud of them and they will be celebrating their graduation today. Even though I cannot attend the function, I'm happy with them. I want them to know that I fully support them because they're going through a happy time as they carry on with their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that they continue their education in different fields so that they can have more things to do. As we know, it opens doors and you get tools through education, even though we hear all the time about how important education is. I thank the graduates and I congratulate them.

I would like to thank the parents, relatives and friends, the district education authority, elders, and especially their teachers and the staff in

the schools. They were providing support so that the students can graduate today.

I am proud of you and I am happy with you. (interpretation ends)
 Congratulations, Qaqqalik School Class of 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 111 – 5(2): 2018
 High School Graduates of Arviat**

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

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate with the students who are graduating from grade 12 in Arviat. There are 40 graduates.

>>Applause

I would like to mention their names. I would like to tell them that graduating from grade 12 is not the end. Get more education, as it is a benefit.

Mr. Speaker, the 40 graduates grade 12 are:

- Brian Jr. Aglukark,
- Adamie Ahmak,
- John Amarudjuak,
- Candice Angalik,
- Joy Angnetsiak,
- Renee Anowtalik,
- April Arloo,
- Carlos Arnalak,
- Kathleen Arualak,
- Lucy Aulatjut,

- Brandon Curley,
- Paul Enowyak,
- Lakeisha Flynn,
- Jasmine Gibbons,
- Phillip Hallauk,
- Matthew Iblauk,
- Michael Illnik,
- Joel Illungiyok,
- Paulie Issumatarjuak,
- Timothy Ivunirjuk,
- Michaela Kablutsiak,
- Vicky Kablutsiak,
- Crystal Kalluak,
- Seepa Katsuak,
- Donny Kigusiutnak,
- Priscilla Kigusiutnak,
- Jeremy Kritaqlilik,
- Cheryl Kutluk,
- Kevin Mukyungnik,
- Eva Muckpah,
- Wayne Muckpah,
- Damaris Nutarasungnik,
- Andrea Okatsiak,
- Moses Okatsiak,
- Phillip Okatsiak,
- Nangmalik Qanatsiaq,
- Michael Sewoee,
- John Jr. Tugak,
- Holly-Ann Uluadluak,
- John Uluadluak

I would like to celebrate with you for graduating. There are many of you, 40, and I celebrate with the parents, who get them up each and every morning to go to school. I celebrate with you for your graduation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 112 – 5(2):
Working to Represent
Constituents**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Rankin Inlet. I'm happy to see that it's spring and summer.

I wish to inform the people of Rankin Inlet that I'm happy to represent them and I'm proud of them. I work hard every day for the people of Rankin Inlet. I wanted that job and I'm happy with that. Even though we work late into the night, I don't give up because, as Mr. Main stated, I think we all can say that we want to represent our fellow residents properly. It becomes challenging sometimes, but we don't deal with our communities separately. We work for all of Nunavut as one. It's good.

I would like to congratulate the kindergarten and grade 4 graduates in Rankin Inlet. We are proud of them. We have grade 12 graduates in Rankin Inlet. They hold graduation ceremonies in August after they do their departmental exams, when we know that they're graduating. We will be there in August and in the fall session announce their names. I'm proud of them.

Lastly, let us all have a good summer. It's my cousin Johnny Tulugak's birthday today, so he's caught up with me and eventually I'll get passed. I wish you a happy birthday.

People of Rankin Inlet, let's have a good day. I'll be going home tomorrow. Let's have a good summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 113 – 5(2):
Fishing Derby Winners in Igloolik**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my constituents and people of Nunavut.

Yes, it's spring and we all feel that. People are going on the land. Even right now people are going out on the land. I just want them to be careful so that they can have a good time.

Last week I briefly mentioned that people of Hall Beach and Igloolik hold fishing derbies on different lakes. There were going to be 24 winners, not just three or four. I have all the names now, but I'll mention only these: first place winner was Annie Arnatsiaq and the prize was \$15,000. Well known by my colleagues, Joe Attagutaluk came in second place. He got a tent, a Coleman stove, and a sleeping bag. The camping set was his prize. In third place was Martha Angutautok. She got a kerosene heater, the kind that Inuit now use when they are camping. That was her prize.

As I said earlier, there were 24 winners. 24th place was Simon Qamanirq Maktar. He got two pizzas. Yesterday when we were eating pizza, I recalled he won two pizzas.

With those 24 winners, I would like to extend my appreciation to the organizers as 21 elders were also included in the fishing derby with assistance from residents. I thank my fellow residents.

>>Applause

Thank you very much. I wish my colleagues a good spring. Have a happy spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 114 – 5(2):
Appreciation for the Assistance
and Support**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize.

Today I would like to thank the people of Nunavut, especially the people of Iqaluit, Joe for your support, and to all my colleagues who gave me the support that I needed, not only for Iqaluit but for all of Nunavut after we had a family loss. There was another death just recently.

(interpretation ends) The costs of doing minimal or nothing means lives are being lost. Priceless. I will certainly be now more committed to being proactive than reactive. *Suuqai*, you can divide me up in any way you want as a woman, as a fellow leader in here, Nunavummiut, Iqalummiut. Now as an auntie, I stand here today struggling but trying to lead by example. Life goes on.

Like everyone in here today, I had planned a quiet summer. I think it's going to be very busy.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my

statement.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have always said that I don't know a lot and I'm looking for solutions not only here in Iqaluit but in all the other communities. I'll be talking to people to look for solutions. (interpretation ends) *Suuqai*, I live in Nunavut. I have always said that we shouldn't be divided. When we are in here, social issues and the challenges all impact Nunavummiut. I hope when we come back, although I have another extended family yet once again, that there will be fewer lives lost.

Adam, hats off to you for always talking about ending violence. We will never end it, but we have to minimize it because at the end of the day not doing anything is a shame on us, shame on us as a society not to help those who need it. Just because legislation says you have to want help, I don't think it is right when it comes to mental health. Not ensuring people get help when you ask and they don't get it, this is a result.

I don't know what kind of changes can happen, but I will certainly be looking to every one of you because honestly, how many more lives have to be lost? We sit in here talking about budgets the last little bit. I hope we're going to be just as active when it comes to social issues in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 115 – 5(2): Grise Fiord's 2018 High School Graduate

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my colleague, I totally feel your pain, as you spoke of this burdensome subject.

Today I rise to speak about an upcoming event on Monday that will take place in Resolute Bay, where a single student will be celebrating their grade 12 graduation. His name is Joelie David Jr. Komangapik. He previously tried to complete his grade 12, but since he didn't get enough credits, he kept at it and was able to pass the classes he needed to graduate.

On June 18, on Monday, if any of you happen to be in Resolute Bay, please attend the graduation ceremony at Qarmartalik School where they will hold the graduation event for this single student. I urge him to continue and further his education because there will be doors of opportunities being opened for him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 116 – 5(2): Congratulations to Recent Graduates

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning, Cambridge Bay and Nunavummiut.

I rise today to congratulate the students of Kullik Ilihakvik who completed kindergarten and for those who completed grade 6 and will be going onto junior high.

I would also like to congratulate all the students across Nunavut who completed grade 12 or post-secondary education, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

I would like to applaud my colleagues, Elisapee and Adam, for raising awareness in this House as it not only affects one person; it affects the whole community.

I wish you all safe travels home and a wonderful summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 117 – 5(2): Recent Death of Baker Lake Elder

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To my fellow residents of Baker Lake, I wish you a good morning and to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice an intensely emotional statement after I received a call from Baker Lake. We the residents of Baker Lake also deal with

issues. Today I am standing to speak to two touching issues.

Baker Lake is the only inland community in Nunavut, represented in the Assembly. We too suffer losses on occasion. What I want to speak about relates to Inuit culture and language, as this was a passion of the person who recently passed.

As residents of Baker Lake, they are aware of when she breathed her last breath. Nonetheless, I had the pleasure to work with her. It was very impactful on all residents, as this woman dedicated herself to our culture and language until the day she passed away.

I am speaking to her legacy to the people of Nunavut as she met with many other residents both in the Kivalliq and the Baffin regions. I am divulging some of these details, as I share in the loss as the residents of Baker Lake felt upon her passing, obviously.

She was extremely passionate about our culture and language. Winnie Niviuvaarjuk Owingayak was her name. We suffered a huge loss, as she continually promoted our language, our traditional songs, and our cultural traditions up until the day she died. I am sharing this news with people she used to meet with.

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

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues as well.

Nonetheless, at the time when the funeral was held, many residents of Baker Lake recalled many occasions where they interacted with her. We were reminded again that she wanted only happy memories amongst her fellow relatives.

I myself have one memorable memory that springs to mind. I used to work with her, as I have stated on occasion. Even though she was an elder, she taught herself how to use computers. There was one month-end where we had to produce a report to present to the hamlet council.

Since I was the supervisor in the office, she was my employee. She was working on a document and when she went out, I went to her computer to try to open it. She had set up a password locking the screen, so I wasn't even able to open the computer to try to print the document that I had to present as the supervisor. This was something I would recall with joy and pride, as our elders are extremely capable. I wanted to pay this tribute.

Further, just last week the Minister of Environment made an announcement that there would be an increase in the regional polar bear quota. In learning that, I called my colleague representing Coral Harbour and also called the local radio station to ensure everyone understood this.

There is one single polar bear tag provided to Baker Lake. As an inland community, we understand the reasoning. We were also impacted by

this polar bear quota change. However, this winter Karen Niego, who is a female, harvested a polar bear, filling out our single polar bear tag.

She had help from several Coral Harbour residents to harvest it. To the people who provided this help, we thank you immensely. This was a momentous occasion for the residents of Baker Lake, but I share in the joy and congratulate Karen Niego and her family and the people who helped corner a fierce and elusive predator that she ended up harvesting.

In concluding my statement, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues, I am going home soon and will be seeing my grandchildren whom I will sing my endearment songs to when I return as I miss doing that.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely exuberant today and I hope everyone has a great spring. I look forward to seeing my beautiful community of Baker Lake. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we are all going back to our beautiful communities.

>>*Laughter*

Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Ehaloak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 114 – 5(2): Sexual Abuse Rates in Nunavut

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am providing additional information to questions I was asked by my colleague John Main asked on June 6 regarding sexual abuse rates in Nunavut. I have filed the information with the Clerk to be corrected in the *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker, the question was:

“In the Department of Justice business plan, I will say it in English because it is written in English. (interpretation ends) One of the objectives under the Community Justice Division of the Department of Justice is ‘To help create a positive healthy relationship between the offender and the community.’”

Can the minister explain to me what that looks like when it comes to a convicted sexual offender who is returning to a small community where they may be in very close contact or may see the victims or the people that have been negatively affected by their crime? What does creating a positive, healthy relationship between the offender and the community look like in terms of sexual abusers?”

Response as the Minister of Justice:

The business plan objective referred to by the Member of Arviat North-Whale Cove, to help create a positive healthy relationship between the offender and the community, refers mainly to the department's Restorative Justice Program. The program is run by the local community justice committees and supported by the local community justice outreach workers and the

Government of Nunavut justice specialists. Restorative justice addresses the harm caused by crime by holding the offender accountable, identifying and addressing the root cause of the offending behaviour and providing an opportunity for those affected by crime - victims, offenders, and communities - to find solutions and repair relationships to the extent possible.

Currently cases involving sexual offences are not eligible for the Restorative Justice Program. For all offenders' reintegration back into the community, the Community Justice and Corrections divisions work together to ensure that this happens in a safe and appropriate manner. Community Corrections completes a risk needs assessment for all offenders, including individuals convicted of sexual offences. These assessments help support successful reintegration, which reduces the likelihood of reoffending.

Registered sex offenders in the community must also report regularly to the RCMP to ensure they are complying with the conditions of their release.

Any victims concerned or affected by offenders returning to their community can contact the government's victim services at 1-866-456-5216 or by email at victimservices@gov.nu.ca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Health, Minister Angnakak.

**Return to Oral Question 115 – 5(2):
Nurse Positions in Pangnirtung**

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I'm doing a return to oral question asked by Margaret Nakashuk, MLA for Pangnirtung. She asked on June 6, 2018 regarding nursing positions in Pangnirtung. The question was following up on questions raised during the Committee of the Whole's review. Ms. Nakashuk asked for details of the complement of nursing positions in Pangnirtung.

Response:

I would like to take this opportunity to supplement the response I gave to the Member for Pangnirtung on June 6 on the subject of nurse positions in her community.

The Department of Health has confirmed for me that as of June 6, 2018, there are 14 nursing positions in Pangnirtung. These include five community health nurses, the supervisor of health programs (often referred to as the nurse in charge), two psychiatric nurses, two public health nurses, the supervisor of community public health, two nurse positions in home and community care, and a nurse practitioner. Of these 14 positions, 4 are currently vacant and 3 are filled on a casual basis or by an agency nurse.

Finally, I recommend that my colleague review *Return to Written Question 6 – 5(2): Staffing Status of the Department of Health*. That was tabled by the Clerk on May 24, 2018. This document, which is accurate as of March 1, 2018, provides community-level details of all the department's positions and whether they are filled by indeterminate employees, casual employees, employees on contract, or internal transfers; vacant positions are also noted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Return to Oral Question 151 – 5(2):
Decriminalization of Marijuana**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am providing additional information to a question I was asked by my colleague, Mr. John Main, which was asked on June 11 regarding the decriminalization of marijuana. I have filed the information with the Clerk for the *Hansard*. Additional information is idealized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the privilege of welcoming my constituents and also to thank Mr. Sandy Macdonald and his wife, Michele. I think Martha is not here right now, but I would like to welcome you to the House and once again to thank all of you, your family, for your dedication and your time spent in Iqaluit and Nunavut travelling around. Thank you for all the work that you have done. I know that, Sandy, you couldn't do this alone; it takes a family behind you to support the work that you do. Thank you, Michele, and thank you, Sandy, for everything that you have done and welcome to the House.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. If I can say on behalf of the members, we thank you for your service to Nunavummiut.

>> *Applause*

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize my son Jarvis Tasiuq, as he is our youngest son whom we love deeply.

Yesterday his partner graduated, as I stated earlier. Her grandfather and mother attended her graduation ceremony. I would like to ask them to stand, the elders from Pangnirtung, Malaya and Jarlo Akulukjuk. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Thank you very much. We love Clara and Cael. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. Good morning to Gjoa Havenmiut.

Today I would like to recognize, although she is not from Gjoa Haven anymore, she lives in Iqaluit, my cousin Rosemary Twerdin.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. I, too, wish to recognize several visitors to the gallery. I am quite happy and pleased to see you here, my dear fellow residents of Pangnirtung, Jarlo and Malaya Akulukjuk and their daughter-in-law, Rosemary Akulukjuk, who is a student at the NTEP program here.

Lorraine, please feel welcome. I also want to welcome the father of my younger sister Annie's son Jacob whom I love, Luke Peter, who is also in the gallery. Welcome and I am glad to see you all here. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery and always feel welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize and welcome my wife of 38 years now. We have gone through deep things and hard things and we almost broke up, but my mother used to come whenever I was having a hard time and she would assure me that this will pass and she always told us that. We can stand today and we still love each other more and more every day. We were brought by elders. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I would really like to welcome my precious wife.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I'll speak in English a

little bit. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome to this House the one who gives me pride to my stride, the one who preps my steps, the one who has been with me through thick and thin for the last 38 years, and she continues today to make my liver quiver.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I would like you to welcome to the House Ms. Netser.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery, Ms. Netser, and always feel welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge and recognize an elder, which we should be respecting our elders. I am very proud of our elders who are sitting in the elders' gallery. First of all, I acknowledge Simon Nattaq and Annie. I know that they are elders of Iqaluit now, but Mr. Nattaq originates from Hall Beach...

>> *Applause*

...and has been living in Iqaluit for a long time. If we all remember, he was our Sergeant-at-Arms. He is also a member of the city council in Iqaluit and he has been providing service to Inuit and helps many Inuit.

I would also like to recognize all the elders who are visiting in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Nattaq, your wife, and all the people sitting in the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everyone in the gallery, but I recognize a person from my previous community, Annie Petaulassie. She is a good friend of my mother. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Annie, welcome to the gallery. To all visitors in the gallery, even if we don't mention your name, always feel welcome to your House as Nunavummiut. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this individual was recognized previously, one thing that I can never forget is when I lived here, this individual came up to me unexpectedly. We all lose a family member at some time. When my mother passed away, my cousin's wife came. Although she was recognized, ever since I have been holding on to that appreciation of her because you can appreciate a person for a very long time. Because we appreciate other people and I have not shown my appreciation for a long time, as I said, we can have a deep appreciation.

Young people, I urge you to recognize your elders. Please use them as your foundation in life. I would like to thank this individual from the bottom of my

heart, my cousin's wife. Also, Simon Nattaq, my grandfather, I have had a great appreciation for him because, when I was living here and when I really wanted to go out hunting, he has taken me out hunting. For the first time, I caught a whale with his help. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

>>Applause

Also to the people who are visiting in the gallery, please feel welcome. Thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know a familiar face. Ms. Lili Weemen, I recognized her earlier in this sitting. She's in here quite frequently watching the proceedings and I notice that she is sitting on a different side of the House today.

I would also like to take the time to recognize somebody who lives in my constituency. I'm working hard to please and I look forward to sitting down over a cup of tea or having a conversation with him. He has let me know when he is not happy with me. I would like to recognize Mr. Jeetaloo Kakee to the Chamber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to all the visitors in the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Oral Questions. Member for

Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 154 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure for Qikiqtarjuaq

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

In 2017 the Government of Nunavut submitted a number of projects to the federal government for consideration under the National Trade Corridors Fund. One of the proposals was for new marine infrastructure in Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Speaker, last month CBC news reported that the federal government rejected this project, along with a number of others that were submitted.

Can the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation clarify what specific reasons he was provided by the federal government for why the Qikiqtarjuaq marine infrastructure project was rejected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government did not give us an exact reason as to why the marine infrastructure project in Qikiqtarjuaq was not approved. We have not heard the exact reason why they denied or rejected this proposal.

One of the reasons why is because they

still needed more research, so they could not go ahead with the project. To date we don't know the exact reasons why this proposal was rejected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency announced \$2.5 million in funding for fisheries-related initiatives in Nunavut, including “the development of an inshore turbot fishery in Qikiqtarjuaq.” Although I am very pleased that one arm of the federal government recognizes the great economic potential of the fishing industry, I am very disappointed that a different arm of the federal government is not making the necessary infrastructure investments to support the development of a sustainable fishing industry that would greatly help to reduce poverty in my constituency.

Can the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation indicate what specific support the Government of Nunavut is prepared to provide to move the Qikiqtarjuaq marine project forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we get the reasoning why the Qikiqtarjuaq marine project was rejected, perhaps we will make amendments to the proposal and then we will have the opportunity to provide that project again this fall. I

believe that we can try to give that proposal again in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record, will the minister commit to providing both me and the Municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq with a copy of the submission that the Government of Nunavut provided to the federal under the National Trades Corridors Fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier in my response, once we find out the exact reasons why it was rejected, we will be making that submission again for Qikiqtarjuaq marine infrastructure. I can tell the member that once we get that information, we will be resubmitting that proposal again this coming fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 155 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure in Chesterfield Inlet

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

In regard to the marine infrastructure in

Chesterfield Inlet, it's a safety hazard. We have lost one child. I did research. There have been many people who are trying to go into the marine infrastructure that they fall into the water. I was wondering what kind of plans the minister has for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I met with a member to talk about this issue and I said that the (interpretation ends) Oceans Protection Plan (interpretation) funding is allocated by the federal government for Nunavut, Nunatsiavut, and Yukon and \$93.3 million over five years. That is to make improvements to the marine infrastructure, to make them safe, and to make sure that they offload and reload efficiently.

Every year all those communities will be visited to find out exactly what is required in the community. They will be doing a study in Chesterfield Inlet to find out exactly what is required to be improved or worked on. That individual will meet with the community, hamlet council, and HTO and work with the HTO and use their recommendation to find out exactly what is required to be worked on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his good response. I just want the minister to know that I just

received correspondence about a potentially unsafe situation related to the small craft harbour and for the minister's response on it.

This is because it is close to the Northern Store and when the harbour is in use, it blocks off access to the store with sealift materials strewn on the beachfront. I want to ask if that \$93 million allocated under the Oceans Protection Plan is for all of Nunavut. Will the minister identify which land or areas are urgent priorities and if it can be added to that list? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my last question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, once they have consulted with the community on what is a priority project, we will know which community is first on priority and the reasons behind it. With the sealift laydown area hindering access to the store, perhaps it can be enlarged or relocated. Those will be looked at not this summer but the following summer, when the consultant will be visiting the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 156 – 5(2): Training for Medical Interpreters

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to you. Good morning, my colleagues, people of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, the people of Nunavut, and all of the visitors.

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

Mr. Speaker, there are many Inuit who worked as clerk interpreters in the past, when medical services were provided by the federal government. It has been many years and they did a very good job. Many of those individuals have retired or quit those jobs, but they provided a very valuable service.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Health is: can the minister indicate whether any consideration has been given to getting some of those older clerk interpreters back to provide instruction and training to the clerk interpreters of today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. No, we haven't considered that. However, we work with Nunavut Arctic College if our interpreters require training. They have ongoing training even when they're working. They provide training and make use of Nunavut Arctic College, but I can consider that definitely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of Health for her proper response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it seems that there is more equipment in our health system today that requires more hands-on training. It seems that

there is less training focusing on medical language and terminology. Would the minister consider reviving the type of medical terminology and interpreter training that was provided in the past? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are open to looking at anything. If there are improvements that need to be made to the current system that we use, then I am open to reviewing that. I think we all want to have the best possible system in place. If the current training modules that are being used by our clerk interpreters are not up to par, then that's something that I can meet with the Minister of Nunavut Arctic College to discuss.

If you have any specific circumstances where you feel in your community that interpreting services weren't to a standard that they should be, then I would like to invite you to let me know and write me a letter on it and I will be happy to look into the situation. I would be happy to work with the Minister of Nunavut Arctic College as well to see what more can be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her proper response. Mr. Speaker, looking at our home community and all of Nunavut, I am asking the question.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the role of the clerk interpreter is extremely important to ensure that the clients in our health centres and hospitals can communicate properly with health professionals. Can the minister provide an update on what steps her department is taking to recruit and train new clerk interpreters in the health field? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These positions are for the clerk interpreters who assist the nurses in the communities and total 129 positions. There are currently 11 positions that are vacant, but we are always searching for people for those (interpretation ends) vacant positions. (interpretation) If a position is open, we advertise in the community about the vacancy and we also do our own searches as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 157 – 5(2): Domestic Violence/HR Strategy for Employees

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

As I had previously mentioned, the rates of domestic violence in Nunavut are 13 times higher than the national average. Domestic violence affects every segment of a population, including public servants that work for the Government

of Nunavut.

There are many forms of domestic violence and none of them stop at work. The trauma and stress that victims experience frequently affect their ability at work. I understand that many employers and managers across all sectors may not be prepared to deal with the sensitive issues surrounding domestic violence, but my question is: has Department of Finance prepared an HR strategy for dealing with employees who are suffering from domestic violence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For any violence and any conflict, our government has procedures and guidelines related to this. Yes, we do have employee assistance towards any form of help. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear an exact response regarding an HR strategy on dealing with domestic violence, but I'll leave it be for now.

On June 1, 2016 Manitoba became the first Canadian jurisdiction to legislate leave for domestic violence victims, and today Manitoba provides five days of paid leave.

Since 2016 Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Government of

Canada have created similar domestic violence leaves. Has the Department of Finance considered creating a similar leave for public servants who are suffering from domestic violence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't know the level of the discussions that are taking place in terms of what form of leave. Leaves typically go through collective agreements on different levels. We have special leaves for certain things and family emergencies are one of them. There are a number of leaves that our staff can take and if they're dealing with domestic, our staff would take those into consideration. At my level I have not had any discussions in terms of whether to take the road of the other jurisdictions regarding this type of leave right now, but I am open to it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 158 – 5(2): Status on Local Skill Training

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also for the Minister of Finance.

Last month the government introduced the Budget Address with the main estimates presented afterwards. This is related to the bottom of page 6 of the main estimates. It says, (interpretation ends) "Mr. Speaker, employers in the

territory are relying too much on imported labour while many Inuit are under-employed or dependent on social assistance. We will put our communities first by offering more local skills and trades.” (interpretation) I wonder if the planning for this training has begun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you. This was recently passed yesterday, for which I thank all the members for having approved our budget appropriations so that these action items can be worked on, which is satisfying.

The details within the budget are set for the departments as they will now undertake these programs, although it is divided between the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the Department of Family Services to implement. I can't provide actual details currently, but we debated that during our review of the appropriations as it was contained in the main estimates. That is the current status. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I encourage you. Now, public housing affects every community on occasion, as it surfaces from time to time within our communities.

Now, the communities of Coral Harbour and Naujaat have residents who are extremely capable, especially amongst

our younger generations. I only know the residents of my communities and I imagine that to be the case as well in other communities. Whenever a southern company comes to construct housing into our communities, many willing and able workers are never considered for the jobs. However, when it comes to packing the fibreglass insulation, they hire locals to do this menial work, even though they are capable construction workers.

What I believe could provide more benefits is when the contracts are being let, there should be (interpretation ends) labour-only provisions to the contract. (interpretation) The government should instead pre-purchase the materials and work with either the hamlets or local body so that only local workers would take over construction of the building as we already have that capacity to do that now. I wonder if the Minister of Finance would consider that with the other departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can include this in our considerations, or I will. I also work in close conjunction with the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and the Minister of Community Government and Services. They are both aware of these issues as they oversee the contracts. With that being the case, we are always collaborating on these types of interdepartmental issues. As well, we also cooperate when we are undertaking the planning for capital estimates as it goes to the Department of Finance prior to being submitted for approval by the

members.

As we deal with these issues, we also discuss the projects in the context of the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti and to try to increase them, as this particular NNI Policy is specifically for putting Nunavummiut first. That is how we work in these different areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. As per my previous remark, smaller communities don't have actual contractors in-house. There are people who can purchase a house if it were constructed locally, as a lot of funding is used to buy materials.

Since smaller communities don't have contractors, the hamlets can be partnered with as they are the local government. I want to ask if the government can discuss this type of arrangement with the hamlets so that all available positions can be filled by local workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As part of our ongoing capital planning process and in implementing our procurement, that is an ongoing consideration that we take and we look at from the local level. I think, through our *Turaaqtavut* mandate, the very thing that we want to do is to do more for the communities and if there are creative ways.

I applaud the Minister for the Housing Corporation of continuing the blueprint for action. There are a lot of things through that that we can change our procedures. We know that there are a lot of local people who are able to do the work. How do you do that and we have to balance it with what we need in terms of our infrastructure and what needs to be repaired. Those are the very things our minister is tasked specifically to, but through the government as a whole, we have a capital planning process that we continually go and try to improve these systems.

I applaud the question and please continue to do that because that is the very thing and how we can make some of our changes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Question 159 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure for Amitturmiut

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow residents of Amittuq.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet queried you about marine infrastructure. When I reference Amittuq, this includes both Hall Beach and a portion of Igloolik. We too have worked on acquiring marine infrastructure for many years. It would provide tangible opportunities for development in the Amittuq riding. I

also previously mentioned the fact that Hall Beach is experiencing coastal erosion as the land is rising, causing shallower waters.

In my opinion, when discussing marine infrastructure, consideration should be given to Amittuq and to construct a harbour, especially with the rising costs of boats and outboard motors and fuels. We often don't know to which department we should be approaching. Do you have any plans to build a marine facility in the Amittuq area in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, there's the (interpretation ends) Oceans Protection Plan (interpretation) that we can utilize. We are going to be going to each Nunavut community and have meetings with the hunters and trappers organizations, hamlets, and shipping companies. We will be focusing on the community needs to increase or to build marine facilities or to find what they need. Once that consultation process is done, we will look at each individual community's needs and prioritize the building of infrastructure. The (interpretation ends) Oceans Protection Plan (interpretation) is on for five years, so we will have to expend the monies within five years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, it has

become a safety issue where their equipment gets damaged. Once their equipment is damaged, they can just look and see the other people going hunting, and so on. They wonder how they can fix their equipment and they probably won't get assisted by the government.

It's good to hear that you're going to be looking at the community needs and prioritizing them. I had a meeting with the hamlet council prior to this sitting, and infrastructure was one of the top priorities of the hamlet council. I would like it to be seriously considered by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to include the Amittuq area in building infrastructure like a marine facility.

The hamlet council indicated that this is a serious need. We also have the hunters and trappers organizations that are involved and they have also placed a priority on a larger boat because there's coastal erosion. It's creating a problem on the boats and equipment. I would like you to seriously think about including a marine facility for the Amittuq area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to be looking at all the communities' needs, look at the safety and health issues, and we will prioritize them. We're going to be looking in several communities where we will be building the infrastructure over the next five years.

I can't say at this time that Amittuq will

be a priority, but we have to look at it from all angles. We will look at all the communities, place a priority, and see who's got safety issues and who's got health issues. I can say that once the review is done, we will be doing the prioritization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, just to reiterate, Amittuq includes all of Hall Beach and a portion of Igloolik. Now Igloolik does have a breakwater, but it doesn't have enough capacity either. Yes, funding will always be limited.

This is again a verbal reminder that the very first member for Amittuq also brought up this marine infrastructure back in 1999, when the First Legislative Assembly began. Today it is 2018. Now I am advising the minister today if he could please commit to coming to Amittuq to personally view the situation so he can understand our challenges. You would then understand after viewing it why Amittuq should be considered as a priority community.

I wonder if the minister can agree in this House so that my fellow Amittuq residents can listen as I committed to making this a priority and I want my concerns heard by the government. Can the minister confirm that he will go see the Amittuq area personally when it comes to marine infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to go visit the Amittuq riding. I can confirm that I would be interested in going for a visit, but I just can't confirm the actual timeline at this time. When the actual dates are decided, I would like to go there, which would be in the summer. I do want to see the beach in person, as well as the existing marine infrastructure.

However, with regard to Hall Beach, I have been there in the summertime and have seen the coastal erosion that is creeping up to the buildings. I have seen that personally, but it has been a number of years since that visit. Perhaps I can state here that I will commit to a visit as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 160 – 5(2): Issues with Medical Travel

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Health.

Baker Laker residents are now well informed about the complaints office in your department. However, what I want to ask about relates to medical travel. When patients have to travel, there is only one airline serving the Kivalliq region, Calm Air. When patients travel, they leave early in the morning if they are going to Winnipeg, where they have to land into two communities and sometimes into three before finally arriving. This relates to my question.

When patients are travelling post-surgery from the hospital in Winnipeg on their way home, most Kivalliq residents have experienced this in travelling around the region. The planes all land in Rankin Inlet and with numerous planes, it can cause traffic issues. However, it is those elderly patients who are travelling post-surgery who are made to wait for their flights at the air terminal. Not all patients have relatives in Rankin Inlet, so they are waiting while they are still in pain from their surgery.

I do recall that this matter was spoken about during the Fourth Assembly, where the possibility of a boarding home in Rankin Inlet was contemplated, but as we all know, it takes many years of planning before the actual facility is a reality. Do you have any policies in place where these elderly patients can go, as sometimes there are quite a few waiting to go home in Rankin Inlet? That is my first question. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have heard of this concern, which is why I committed to working hard to have a boarding home in Rankin Inlet to house patients who are either travelling home or require boarding.

I also do know that in the case of patients requiring assistance or who can't immediately travel home due to the length of the travel, they can be placed in the local hotel. If you were aware of a patient who wasn't looked after and if you convey that information to me, I

would be able to look into the actual case and whether they received the proper services, as I can do that. However, they do have the option of being placed in the local hotel in Rankin Inlet and there is more than one hotel there. We can go that route.

With the boarding home that we are proposing to build, I brought it up on more than one occasion. It's in the planning stage right now. We are working on the (interpretation ends) RFP (interpretation) to build that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear that they are going to be building a boarding home that will be utilized by the elders and people who just recently had surgery. They wait four or five hours at the air terminal in Rankin Inlet.

My question is now on behalf of my constituents. When you are en route home, the people of Baker Lake have to go through Chesterfield Inlet, but there are some routes where they go directly to Rankin Inlet and then to Baker Lake directly. We only have one airline and that should be factored in by the Minister of Health because the medical patients wait way too long at the air terminal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we

agree that this is a concern by all of us about medical travel patients who are trying to get back home after surgery. I know we have to do more at the Department of Health. We will have to look into this further.

The Medical Travel Policy that we are always referring to is under review by Lufthansa. The whole aspect of medical travel will be reviewed, including the patient's experience going to and from hospitals, etcetera. We are trying to see how it can be improved. It will be part of the review that we are doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the response. The question I have now is, during weekends after working hours, Saturdays and Sundays, the Office of Patient Relations is generally closed. As MLAs we sometimes go hunting or get out of town for the weekends.

Now, when it comes to the Inuit that we are representing, sometimes medical travel patients will come back on Saturday or Sunday and then they will have to wait in Rankin Inlet for the next flight. Sometimes there are so many flights that they get backlogged. If the patients can be allowed to go rest at a hotel, what number can they call? Can they just call the health centre or health staff? Do you have a number where they can call and who do they talk to? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister Angnakak.

Hon. Pat Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are aware of these kinds of situations that have taken place. There are times when we have day rooms at the hotels. We actually secured day rooms where people can go if their flight has been delayed or for some other reason. If somebody is at the airport and nobody is there to meet them, yes, they could call the health centre and say, "We're on our way."

We do have a medical travel office. I don't know the number offhand to tell you right now, but that's also another number that somebody call and say, "My flight was delayed." Somebody should be at the airport to meet patients coming in. If you know of instances where people are left stranded at the airport, please tell me about it and it will be something that we can investigate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 161 – 5(2): Kugluktuk Airport

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

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Last month the federal government announced that support will be provided under the National Trade Corridors Fund to replace Kugluktuk's airport terminal building. This is very good news for the

community, and I very much appreciate the territorial government having submitted this project for consideration. Can the minister indicate the timeline for this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We too were very happy when the federal government announced that it was approved for the five communities to get their air terminal buildings replaced. The timeline will be we get into the capital plan... . Our hope is to get into the capital plan this fall and from there, we will go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. As the minister will be aware, Kugluktuk's airport still has a gravel runway and there are concerns that we may lose jet services from the airlines. Can the minister indicate if his department plans to combine the replacement of the airport terminal building with a project to pave the runway? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, this project is only for the replacement of air terminal buildings. We have no plans to combine any of these projects with the paving of the runway in the communities. Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The condition of the airport's current runway results in significant [quantities] of dust being generated, especially during the summer. Can the minister describe what new initiatives his department is working on to control and reduce dust at community airports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently there is a dust suppressant that is used at airports that is non-corrosive. We have to make sure that we don't use any corrosive materials on runways. I can't remember what it's called off the top of my head, but that is used. It's not used on a regular basis, but we can look at that in terms of how often it is supposed to be applied and which communities do get it. I know it's not annually. I don't know how often it's put on, but we can look at that to see because most communities do have a dust problem from the airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 7: Written Questions

**Written Question 012 – 5(2):
Recommendations of the Domestic
Violence Death Review Committee**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first written question is for the Minister of Justice and it's regarding the recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee. My question is:

1. What specific actions has the Government of Nunavut taken to date in response to the recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee that were contained in the Office of the Chief Coroner of Nunavut's news release that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of June 7, 2018 (Tabled Document 31 – 5(2))?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Written Question 013 – 5(2):
Administration of the Government
of Nunavut's Staff Housing Policy**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question today is for the Minister of Finance and it concerns the subject of the administration of the Government of Nunavut's *Staff Housing Policy*.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. As of June 1, 2018, broken down by community, employing entity

(Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency, and territorial corporation) and category of position (within the meaning of subsection 2(c) of Schedule A of the Government of Nunavut's *Staff Housing Policy*), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were Nunavut Inuit?

2. As of June 1, 2018, broken down by community, employing entity (Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency, and territorial corporation) and category of position (within the meaning of subsection 2(c) of Schedule A of the Government of Nunavut's *Staff Housing Policy*), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were not Nunavut Inuit?
3. As of June 1, 2018, how many employees under the jurisdiction of the Government of Nunavut's Senior Personnel Secretariat (within the meaning of the "Definitions" section of the Government of Nunavut's *Staff Housing Policy*) were renting staff housing units?
4. How many of the employees referred to in question No. 3 were Nunavut Inuit?
5. How many of the employees referred to in question No. 3 were not Nunavut Inuit?
6. As of June 1, 2018, what was the average monthly value of the staff housing subsidy provided to employees under the jurisdiction of the Government of Nunavut's Senior Personnel Secretariat (within the

meaning of the “Definitions” section of the Government of Nunavut’s *Staff Housing Policy*) renting staff housing units?

7. Broken down by community, how many of the 146 employees listed in the government’s response to question No. 11 in Written Question 7 – 5(2) were Nunavut Inuit?
8. Broken down by community, how many of the 146 employees listed in the government’s response to question No. 11 in Written Question 7 – 5(2) were not Nunavut Inuit?
9. As of June 1, 2018, broken down by community, employing entity (Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency and territorial corporation) and category of position (within the meaning of subsection 2(c) of Schedule A of the Government of Nunavut’s *Staff Housing Policy*), how many employees were participating in the Rental Assistance Program that is provided for in Schedule F of the Government of Nunavut’s *Staff Housing Policy*?
10. How many of the individuals referred to in question No. 9 were Nunavut Inuit?
11. How many of the individuals referred to in question No. 9 were not Nunavut Inuit?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is asking for unanimous consent to have his detailed written question entered into the record as read.

Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We’re in agreement.

Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 001 – 5(2): 24-Hour Elder Care Facility for Kugluktuk

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by over 300 of my constituents in Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, the petition is in support of the development of a 24-hour elder care facility for the community of Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to present this petition today on behalf of my constituents and I look forward to a positive response from the government. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 038 – 5(2): Student Loan Fund Schedule March 31, 2017

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I am tabling the *Schedule for the Student Loan Fund for the year ending March 31, 2017*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 039 – 5(2): Letters of Expectation 2018-2019

Tabled Document 040 – 5(2): Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service Annual Report 2017-2018

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have two documents to table. The first document is *Letters of Expectation 2018-19* to the following territorial corporations:

- Arctic College
- (interpretation ends) Nunavut Business Credit Corporation
- Nunavut Development Corporation
- Nunavut Housing Corporation
- Qulliq Energy Corporation

(interpretation) Also, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 2017-18 *Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Languages, Minister Joanasié.

Tabled Document 041 – 5(2): Minister of Languages 2014-2015 Annual Report

Tabled Document 042 – 5(2): Uqausivut 2.0

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. The first one is the *Minister of Languages Annual Report 2014-15*. That was my first one.

The second document, I am pleased to table today the *Uqausivut Plan 2.0, 2018-2023*, for the implementation of the *Official Languages Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 043 – 5(2): Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal 2016-2017 Annual Report

Tabled Document 044 – 5(2): Division of Corrections 2016-2017 Annual Report

Tabled Document 045 – 5(2): Family Abuse Intervention Act 2016-2017 Annual Report

Tabled Document 046 – 5(2): Nunavut Victim Services 2016-2017 Annual Report

Tabled Document 047 – 5(2): FPT Ministers Responsible for Labour, January 25, 2018

Tabled Document 048 – 5(2): Legal Services Board of Nunavut 2016-2017 Annual Report

Tabled Document 049 – 5(2): Nunavut Law Foundation Annual Report December 31, 2016

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have seven documents to table.

>>Laughter

The first document, Mr. Speaker, today I table the *2016-17 Annual Report of the Human Rights Tribunal*.

My second document, Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the *2016-17 Annual Report for the Division of Corrections*.

My third document, Mr. Speaker, I am tabling today the *2016-17 Annual Report for the Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

My fourth document, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today the *Nunavut Victim Services 2016-17 Annual Report*.

My fifth document, Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting Report for Ministers responsible for Labour, held in Ottawa on January 25, 2018.

My sixth document, Mr. Speaker, today I am tabling the *Legal Services Board of Nunavut's 2016-17 Annual Report*.

My final document, Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the *Annual Report for the Nunavut Law Foundation for the year ending December 31, 2016*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 050 – 5(2): Community Transportation Initiatives Program 2017-2018

Tabled Document 051 – 5(2): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990 for 2017

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. The first one is the *Report on the Community Transportation Initiatives Program 2017-18*.

The second one is the *Report on the Administration of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 052 – 5(2): Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activity Report 2016-2017 QEC

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Contracting, Procurement, and Leasing Activity Report for the fiscal year 2016-17. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Tabled Document 053 – 5(2): Nunavut Lottery Financial Statements March 31, 2017

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table the Nunavut Lottery Financial Statements ending March 31, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Tabled Document 054 – 5(2): Correspondence Re: Chesterfield Inlet Marine Infrastructure

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter of correspondence from the Chesterfield Inlet hamlet council concerning the hazards of marine infrastructure during the summer. I am tabling that correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Tabled Document 055 – 5(2): Books by Pangnirtung Elder Meeka Arnakaq

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These books were given to me by an elder so that they will be available in the House and so that they will be available online. These books were written by an elder on how to live a healthy life, child rearing, teamwork and job involvement, environmental stewardship, and also healing.

Meeka Arnakaq had made these books. She's our elder and she's very well known. She and her husband have been working very hard by doing healing circles and travelling to other communities. I am tabling these books so that they will be available to people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Let's move on. Notices of Motions. I'm sorry. Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member Quassa.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to continually respect our elders. I would like to recognize two elders, Koonoo Muckpaloo and her husband, Aimo Muckpaloo. They are sitting across over there in the gallery. They are originally from Arctic Bay, but they have been residing in Iqaluit for quite some time now. Also in the gallery is Tina. Welcome to the gallery, as well as your child. I would like to welcome them to our House and make sure they are made to feel welcome in our House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Muckpaloo and your wife. To all of you who are sitting in the gallery, welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list, so let's move on. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills.

At this time we will take a 15-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:24 and resumed at 11:43*

Speaker (interpretation): Moving on with our orders of the day. Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 009 – 5(2): Removal of the Member for Aggu from the Executive Council of Nunavut

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Premier and Members of the Executive Council of Nunavut hold office during the pleasure of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Premier of Nunavut serves as the Chairperson of the Executive Council;

AND WHEREAS this House has lost confidence in the Member for Aggu;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded

by the Hon. Member for Gjoa Haven, that the Member for Aggu be removed from the Executive Council of Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus, I moved the motion. This motion doesn't come from me personally, but I put forward the motion on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus. I take no joy from putting forward the motion; neither am I proud of this fact nor am I trying to elevate myself.

This motion speaks to the leadership or lack thereof as it is not a personal attack, but rather due to the leadership style of the person sitting in the seat of the premiership.

Now, in reading the motion, I certainly hope it was understood that Members of this House no longer believe or have lost confidence that work required will be undertaken in good faith. This is part of the various reasons that led to this motion.

I cannot speak on behalf of every member of the Regular Members' Caucus. However, we all have individual reasons that they have made up their mind on, so I will not speak for any of my colleagues. As well, we know that the proceedings are definitely being heard throughout Nunavut and many Inuit want to hear the reasoning behind why such a motion was introduced.

At this point I should be speaking to why this motion was introduced, but I will not speak to try to change anyone's point of view. I will not urge you to vote yes nor will I plead for members to support this motion. No, I am not going to speak to sway anyone's position, as every member has made their own decision on this motion.

I also know that over half of the members shall support this motion and to approve it. The members who shall vote against the motion have that discretionary right and that is fine too. You represent your communities. That is fine. To the members who wish to abstain, that is fine as well. I am not speaking to shift any decisions that members have already made, Mr. Speaker.

Inuit, however, throughout Nunavut want to hear why we are creating a new precedent that has never been used previously today. Let me briefly provide some background. We all know that this government is working tremendously hard, as it is faced with many challenges. There are multiple problems we face.

When dealing with issues, we constantly consult with our constituents to voice concerns on health, education, housing, lack of employment opportunities, language, and mental health amongst others. These are the issues we must resolve within Nunavut. Our constituents urge their MLAs to do this work. "Look, you need to work on these problem areas." We are constantly being urged to try to meet the needs of our constituents and to keep this government accountable as we want this government to operate efficiently and this applies to all members.

However, we also all know that yes, our government faces financial constraints trying to meet all of these needs. We know we have limited funding levels, yet we are faced with severe housing shortages that cause our constituents to visit us to express their sentiments of wishing to get a new housing unit because "My unit is becoming dilapidated," but no, we don't have enough funding to provide these needs.

Additionally, we lack capacity in several areas, such as in the nursing sector where we have shortages in Nunavut. Doctors are also in demand, but we have a shortage. These are the types of issues our constituents ask us to keep in mind in trying to make this government accountable communally.

Now, if the operations were improved, it would result in a better direction for this government, but we require a trustworthy leader. The reason why we need a good leader is because the Premier has to listen to the all of the Members of this House.

In looking at how the Government of Nunavut operates, they have to work together to develop a common goal. We as MLAs also developed our mandate in Pond Inlet by working together with the government. This will be our guiding mandate and whomever we elect as our new Premier will be charged with implementing the goals of this new mandate. You will provide leadership for us all.

Now, another issue people don't quite understand who are watching us is "Why are you voting on this now when you were just elected as a brand-new government? Why are you setting a

precedent? It has only been seven months.”

During our caucus meeting in Pond Inlet, we all agreed that the leadership review would not be supported by the regular members. We agreed that they did not want a scheduled leadership review and it became understood that yes, we will not use this approach of reviewing the leadership.

However, it also became clear that yes, it is better to start immediately by reviewing every action of the Premier and the ministers. We would review whether they were performing the work they were assigned and to have the capability to introduce measures whenever we felt the ministers were no longer productive by introducing a motion.

This part of the protocol has been known for many years inside this House, but not to the people of Nunavut as they weren't aware of the legislature's powers. I am speaking to it in order to ensure they understand the reasons, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) As I mentioned, I don't want to get into the details as to why each member is going to vote how they're going to vote, but I will mention that we do this from a place of professionalism and from a place of high expectations. We as members place the highest expectations on the Office of the Premier because those are the high expectations that our voters have put on us to the government.

The Government of Nunavut is a \$2 billion a year ship, and we need to know as a House that the captain of that ship, if you will excuse the metaphor, we need

to know that the captain has pointed the ship in the right direction and that we have every confidence because we're the workers on the ship. We're the ones running around and trying to make sure that it stays afloat.

Again, I'll mention that this is about leadership. This is not about any one project, any one department, or any one issue. This is bigger than that because we have to look at the big picture in Nunavut, where Nunavut is going, and what the needs are.

Briefly, two key areas have been highlighted by members; the issue of management in terms of management skills. There has not been a lot of team effort among the members under this Premier. There has been a tendency towards an autocratic style of leading, which clashes with our consensus model of government. The second thing that has been brought up repeatedly is integrity. There have been misleading statements made to the House regarding the Northern Lights Trade Show and there have been misleading statements made going back to the leadership forum in November.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this isn't my motion. (interpretation) I did not personally introduce this motion. It comes from all of us and yes, the media and many Nunavummiut think it comes from me, even though it doesn't come from me personally. We are not looking at just one issue. We're not just looking at housing, roads, or languages. No, the government is too big. It operates on a \$2 billion budget annually. That's what we are looking at. We spend \$2 billion annually and the Premier is in charge of that. He's the leader. We imagine a good

operation.

I'll state again that the motion does not personally target one individual. It hurts in some ways and I state again that it should be that way. We are here to do a job. We are all getting paid today. We are not just here to play around. We are not just here for a show to Nunavummiut. We come here to work. They expect the government to operate properly.

In conclusion, this is on the work we do and where we direct it. It's not directed towards the personal life of the Premier. You have done a lot of work in Nunavut. I am aware of that. We are all aware of that. We are not trying to put down the Premier. We are not trying to make him look bad, but the motion is geared towards performance.

I have no more comments, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Premier Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say in front of the people of Nunavut that I am confident and proud of all the members. We are elected separately by our communities. We all have constituents and we are concerned with who votes us in. That is why we are here.

We listen to the needs and concerns of our constituents and what they tell us to bring up. That's our duty when we are elected. It is not just for us. We can't think of just ourselves, but we want to represent our fellow residents, those who elected us in. It's obvious that the people

of Nunavut vote with confidence in the individual. That is how we are elected to a four-year term by our constituents. We're all aware as a government that the Legislative Assembly is not a party system; it's a consensus style of government. It's through agreement as MLAs. Our tradition is to not fight against each other but to agree with each other. That's our consensus system.

We are all aware and I think my colleague said that we were all elected as MLAs in November 2017. It has only been seven months and we are all aware that we are just starting. In our caucus meetings in Pond Inlet and Igloolik, these were the issues that they wanted included by working together and we are finally starting to implement them. Only a few items have made it to this next level at this time, as we are looking at a four-year window to implement the priorities listed within the mandate, which we all agreed to. The first priority listed was languages and employment opportunities for Inuit. These were the first two priorities that topped the list.

We are all aware that since we have been here, there have been changes in implementation. We started with how we can increase Inuit employment within the government, and we have already seen more Inuit in our workforce. Also, the *Nunavut Agreement* directs the government on different areas that government should be introducing. We base it on that and I think we have all seen within government that it has been changing. Article 23 of the land claims agreement points out that we need more Inuit employees.

In the budget that was just approved yesterday, it states what we are supposed

to be doing that we discussed in Pond Inlet and it is developing. We're just starting, as we are all aware. As Premier, we fully understand the mandate that was given to the government. As I stated earlier, after the budget was introduced, what needs to be implemented is contained in there. As I stated, we will be here for four years.

With respect to the concern on Northern Lights, perhaps we spent too much money on that. Maybe that's the case, but if that's what you think, I apologize for that. I think that I have already stated in the House that we will not be seeing this type of thing again. This was just a start. The main purpose of that was that the ministers had to meet people who we will be working with. That was the main purpose and that was the first one.

The Northern Lights Conference is on after every two years. There will be further Northern Lights, but I have already stated in the House that next time, not all of them will have to be involved and we can do it that way. When the officials were in the south, they met with different organizations. That led to more opportunities that we could derive benefits from. It definitely provided further opportunities as a result.

Perhaps I can limit it to two things. The facility that has been referred to previously in Rankin Inlet, the boarding home for medical patients, became easier after our trip to this event. Also, there was more assistance gained from information technology companies.

I just want to reiterate that I already stated that the next event will operate differently. We have already said that

after a question was asked on that. The main purpose why the Nunavut government is involved ever since the Northern Lights Conference was introduced is to see how we can have more financial returns. Those are the things.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, as I indicated earlier, we are a consensus government. We don't operate with a party system. We each have our own constituents. We're elected by our people. We're not a party system. We come here as individuals representing the communities that voted us in. With the *Turaaqtavut* mandate, we were going to work collaboratively and that's our foundation, working together as a group, and to see more benefits.

Of course we don't agree all the time, but that's the way it is. That's the way the Legislative Assembly operates. We don't agree all the time and not agreeing helps us because it makes us talk about the issue and look into the little details. That's why we're a consensus government. Yes, we do not agree at times, but it helps us work it out. We can arrive at an agreement through dialogue and that's how we operate at the cabinet level too. We don't agree all the time, but we arrive at an agreement before the end of the day, and having dialogue is very useful that way.

With the creation of Nunavut, our base from the time of negotiations has been through discussions, working together, being innovative and resourceful. Those are the foundations of this government. That should be our foundation for the time that we're sitting in the House. That's how we arrive at an agreement as a cabinet with those foundations because

that's the way it should be.

(interpretation ends) Very briefly, I think it's very important that I say a few words in English.

Again, first of all, I would just like to say that I respect each and every elected MLA. Everyone has a right to speak in the House to address needs and concerns of Nunavummiut. I think it's very important that we do recognize that we are elected by our constituents and it's our responsibility to ensure that we hear what our constituents are saying. That's the message we have to deliver when we are here. We do that on a daily basis when we are sitting. Our role is to speak what our constituencies are saying. We don't speak for ourselves in our House; we speak on behalf of our constituents, what they are saying, what they want us to say, and we hear that on a daily basis here. Nunavummiut have elected us in confidence to serve a four-year term as Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Again, we are a consensus government. Consensus government means that we work together. We ensure that we are not working behind closed doors. Consensus means working together. I believe that is how we should be doing it. At the same time each and every one of us are elected by our constituents. They are the ones that are going to tell us what to say and how to vote. I believe that is our number one reason for sitting here in this wonderful House of ours here in Nunavut.

Qujannamiik and I certainly wish that each and every one of us will do the right thing and of course I know we will all do the right thing. With that, *qujannamiik* and make a very good

decision. Whatever the decision is, it's going to be good for that day, for today and for Nunavummiut, I think that it is. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning and I appreciate this opportunity to speak to the motion. The reason why I wanted to speak to the motion is to clarify my position and why I shall vote in the manner I do.

When you are a MLA, there is a difference in how regular members and ministers vote, as ministers are also given the right to vote as regular members, and there are also times when ministers vote to preserve cabinet solidarity.

The vote to be held today is something I perceive to be more appropriate to vote as a regular member. The vote on the government operational style isn't an indictment of this government nor is it dealing with budgetary matters. We have discretion as to which way we will vote. I think that is quite clear.

This motion is a vote on the Premier's performance, and I will vote to support the motion. Why? We have only three more years to operate, which isn't quite that far off. As the mover of the motion spoke earlier using the analogy of a captain steering this ship, yes, we are in that situation. Our captain has to steer the ship away from any rough waters. If the captain chose the wrong path and encountered rough waters for the next three years, then these upcoming three years are going to be rough.

With that end already in sight, we need to focus on the priorities that we have already agreed to within our mandate. If we are going to be seesawing back and forth, we won't be able to meet our listed priorities. For that reasoning, I will be supporting the motion.

This government and the regular members and the ministers have to be much closer, to act as a single body and to trust each other. Our choice as the Premier will mean that we don't always agree, but we have to all point in the same direction and to believe in one another without suspicion. We also have to be aware that what is spoken and said has to be truthful and we need integrity in order to stave off suspicions of falsehoods.

As well, we don't want to have members saying we did not agree when they are purported to have supported a policy. When the three years are gone, many of us will no longer sit in these seats and that date is quite close. We have to have confidence and trust in each other. We have to know what is happening and there has to be integrity and not just look for excuses. We've only got three years left, which is very close.

I indicated that I will support this motion. Thank you for allowing me to speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I have been asked to vie for the Premier ever since I was elected and I don't want to try for the Premier. I'm here

representing Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, which is perfectly fine with me.

For the benefit of the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North, I have seen the burden that the elders are carrying and also the young men and women who have to ask for money from their parents because they don't have a job. The government keeps saying they have no money.

I will support the motion for the following reason: I have seen the people of Nunavut, our elders, and the youth who are budgeting themselves in order to stretch the dollars. They don't have any spare room. This \$7,200 was the cost of a limousine, which could help our elders and youth, who have absolutely nothing at all and no wiggle room. We see the mothers who are asking people out there on the local radio for milk and diapers. We see the poverty among the Inuit and here we are sitting here playing around with \$2.2 billion.

That's why I'm going to be supporting this motion. That's it, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members, the people of Nunavut, and my constituents in the High Arctic. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to make comments to the motion.

When we were electing the Premier, 22 of us elected him. During the campaign, there were four who made their

statements and at the conclusion of that, the cabinet was selected. The cabinet worked together and yes, we do elect people to certain places. The Premier is the spokesperson and leader of the cabinet. We come to an agreement on our budget. The ministers, the Premier, and the members decide on the monies that are going to be expended.

I don't know whether I'm going to vote for or against the motion, but I will just make a decision. I was kind of intimidated to make a comment and I do apologize, but I heard that the regular members had already made a decision and they didn't state their reason. I had my hand on the bible. There was the integrity and the oath of office that I was going to follow.

The member was saying that there were misleading statements. I would like to hear more about that. There was the word "misleading" that was used and I would like to know and get better details because they didn't give any examples or didn't use any concrete statements. It's a heavy decision and looking at the individual, we're going through a tough time. We see him as the Premier. We are a consensus government and there will be incidents similar to this happening with the ministers. If something like this happened to me, I would want to know what I said that was misleading to the House. I would like to know why we are trying to remove the Member for Aggu from the executive.

I haven't decided whether I'm going to be voting for or against the motion. The chairperson of the regular members didn't get into the details when he was talking about misleading statements. The Premier is the leader of the Executive

Council and I will support him as long as he is the Premier and also, the Executive Council and then the regular members. That's the way it is.

I like being minister, but we do have to make a vote. I want more information from the chairman about the misleading statements he mentioned and the reason for removing the member. I can't decide whether I am going to vote for or against the motion. I want further information on the misleading part and the reason why they are trying to remove the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't even like to stand up and make a statement on this motion; it's very difficult for me. I don't dislike the member. In fact I have affection for him. Our chair of our Regular Members' Caucus mentioned that this isn't personal and it's not. The premiership of Nunavut is not a popularity contest. It's selecting the best person to do the job.

During the leadership forum, questions, responses, and statements were made to establish the qualities that we would expect to see. I think it's quite clear by this motion coming forward that those expectations have not been met.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't about the Northern Lights or misleading the House. It's not about any personal action that the Premier has taken. Mr. Speaker, it's about leadership and that is where we have lost confidence. I don't want to begrudge the accomplishments that the member has made in the past. This isn't

about of what has been accomplished by the government; it's the leadership style. It's about what is being done now.

Some people have asked, "Is this too early in our mandate?" As again the mover mentioned, it was decided in Pond Inlet that we would not hold a mid-term leadership review and that a leadership review was to be considered every day. The question isn't "Is this too early?" Mr. Speaker, it's "When is too late too late?"

All of us here were elected by our constituents as Members of this Legislative Assembly, and every one of us has a say in who sits on which side or in your case, Mr. Speaker, front and centre of this House. I can speak for myself very clearly that these decisions cannot and are not taken lightly.

The motion in front of us, like I mentioned earlier, is not easy for me to speak to, but I feel the reasons it has been brought forward are real and concerning to me. That is why I'm obligated in my opinion for Nunavut's future to stand in support of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As many members have already spoken, I will keep my statement short.

As Mr. Quassa had stated, it is our duty to speak on behalf of our constituents. I have heard from many of my constituents over the last several months and even more so over the last two days.

Some speak of Mr. Quassa's great deeds, some speak of his vision for our territory, but many have also spoken otherwise. They have spoken of the direction that this government is moving in and fear of how it may impact our territory.

With that being said, I am going to stand for my constituents and alongside my fellow members and I will be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to the motion. Whether this motion goes ahead or not, I would like my constituents to know, as you know, the people of Amittuq and Aggu know that I represent a part of Igloolik. I will not say how I'm going to vote. You will see how I vote when the time comes.

Please be aware, Nunavummiut, Nunavut was created by Inuit because we wanted to represent Inuit, and not just Inuit but everybody in Nunavut. I am a new MLA here and people had confidence in me. I'm able to sit here in the House because of my constituents' confidence.

I would like to tell my constituents right off the bat that this is very difficult and though it is difficult, we were elected to deal with difficult and hard issues in the House. This will be understood by the people of Nunavut that when the MLAs determine that the government is not functioning as it should and during the Pond Inlet retreat, we decided then there would be no leadership review, but there

is a motion on the floor, so this is very hard for me.

Mr. Speaker, I want my constituents to know that maybe many people don't like this or maybe many people support this. When I have to rise in the House here, I'm sure you see that it is very difficult for me to rise and speak here.

In November when we were being sworn in, I solemnly swore that I would represent my constituents. Up to now I am still very serious about that. We don't want to get into conflict because we will get nowhere through conflict. We need to have our government to be believable and running well for all of Nunavut.

When you come from a smaller community, we have a lot of things to learn sometimes about how our government is running. Many people are watching and listening. When you become an MLA, it is very difficult. It's a difficult job. We have to figure out how we are going to vote. People are thinking how that MLA is going to vote. How is he going to represent his constituents? I want to represent my constituents of Amittuq well.

The chairman of the Regular Members' Caucus did not decide this. The regular members will vote the way they want. It is in efforts to make sure Nunavut runs well and finances are spent prudently. That's why we have come to this point. We want to make sure that all of the people of Nunavut know. Whenever people lose confidence in the running of the government, this is what results.

I would like to say that I represent two communities. I personally want to

represent both communities in the same way. Approve of me or not. You can voice your opinion to me when I get back to my community.

I would like people in general in Nunavut to know this will affect many people. The government states that they believe in the Inuit ways and that they will follow them. Where are we on this now? Maybe we should ask ourselves. We're supposed to be representing the elders and I have stated here a number of times that the elders will be my foundation. I want to make sure that youth have a good future.

The government is the foundation for all of Nunavut, and I have my own beliefs. When you have been brought up by elders, we sometimes think that we're different from everyone else. We all think like that whenever something difficult arises. I know that when we come to those situations, I'll learn from it. Everyone goes through hard times. When we learn from the hard times, it is easier for us to move forward. Not everybody may understand this, but the elders say that you may not understand it at first, but once you try it, you will understand it. Even though I am young, I still hold these old adages and sayings.

That's what I wanted to say. I want to make sure the people that I represent in Amittuq understand how I vote. Thank you for giving me the opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I

rise today about the motion on behalf of my constituents.

The Regular Members' Caucus chairman explained the motion and all MLAs have the freedom to vote either way. We have heard from the Premier about the motion and the motion is about the Premier. We're all listening here and we're hearing from our colleagues here as well and each MLA can vote the way they want freely.

What I would like to say is for those of us who are veteran MLAs, this is not the first time we have gone through this. We went through this at the last Assembly, but we have been elected to represent all the people of Nunavut, including our communities. This is a difficult motion to deal with, but we always have to keep in mind about the agreement that we all made in Pond Inlet. We did not want to have a mid-term leadership review and those of us veteran MLAs know that this would have occurred after two years and we removed that. The Premier and the ministers are well aware that a motion can be made about that at any time.

Now that this motion has been introduced, it is obvious that the news media, social media, and our constituents can call us. The people of Baker Lake know about this now through the news, including those who watch the proceedings here and those are who are watching the proceedings now. Everybody that we represent has the opportunity to voice their opinion.

When I was running for election, I told the people of Baker Lake that if they ever have any concerns, call me after I have been elected. Call me by phone or email me or use my constituency

assistant. After this motion had been introduced, I got calls, emails, and text messages from my constituents.

In conclusion, I would like to say as an MLA that I will always work with all the MLAs for my position here in the Fifth Assembly. My constituents have called me and have asked me to support the motion. I will listen to my constituents and I'm explaining that now. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. I have no more names on my list. At this time I would like to ask the mover of the motion, Mr. Main, if you would like to make your last reply. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, earlier one of our colleagues stated their confusion about what we were discussing in this regard. Everything that is said in this House is available in the (interpretation ends) *Hansard* (interpretation) as everything is written down in that document, so you should read your copies. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, either a regular member or not, you should be reading the entire document.

Further, to try to pinpoint a single reason does not apply, as it is specifically for the premiership and leadership. Every member has full discretion and freedom to cast their vote as they see fit. I can't tell you which way to vote and I am not trying to dissuade or sway anyone's mind, as you shall vote on behalf of your constituents. Everyone is free to vote as they feel and we can only say that to them, Mr. Speaker. Every member here has full discretion here.

(interpretation ends) I don't have any further comments. I think pretty much everything has been said regarding this motion. I would like to stress again that this is about a professional matter. This is not a personal matter and it is not tied to any specific issue, whether it be language, whether it be culture, whether it be health care, whether it be infrastructure, housing, education; this is about leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call for a recorded vote. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. All those in favour of the motion, please rise and when I say your name, please be seated. All those in favour of the motion, please rise.

Mr. Main.

Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Qirngnuq.

Ms. Towtongie.

Mr. Keyootak.

Ms. Sheutiapik.

Mr. Kusugak.

Ms. Ehaloak.

Ms. Angnakak.

Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Netser.

All those opposed to the motion, please rise.

Ms. Kamingoak.

Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Akeeagok.

All those who abstain, please rise.

Mr. Kaernerck.

Ms. Nakashuk.

All those in favour of the motion, 16; all those opposed, 3; abstentions, 2. The motion is carried.

Members, at this time we will take a break and the Speaker will announce when it is time to return to the House.

The Full Caucus will meet at 2:00 p.m. in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 12:40 and resumed at 20:00*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Now going back to the orders of the day. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to Item

14 in the *Orders of the Day* and to proceed from that point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 14 in the *Orders of the Day* and to proceed from that point. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Revert to Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 010 – 5(2): Appointment of Premier – Notice

Motion 011 – 5(2): Appointment to the Executive Council – Notice

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two notices of motions I would like to do today. The first one, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, June 18, 2018, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Joe Savikataaq, Member for Arviat South, be appointed Premier of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

The other notice of motion, Mr. Speaker, is I give notice that on Monday, June 18, 2018, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, that the Legislative Assembly

recommends that George Hicke, Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, be appointed to the Executive Council of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Moving on with the orders of the day. Item 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Moving on. Motions. (interpretation ends) Motions. (interpretation) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion 010 – 5(2): Appointment of Premier

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members.

WHEREAS section 60 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Premier of Nunavut shall be chosen from among the Members of the Legislative Assembly and appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend an appointment;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Joe Savikataaq, Member for Arviat South, be appointed Premier of Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

Motion 011 – 5(2): Appointment to the Executive Council

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, college.

>> *Laughter*

Colleagues, it has been a long day.

WHEREAS section 60 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*

provides that the Executive Council of Nunavut shall be composed of persons appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend appointments;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that George Hickes, Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, be appointed to the Executive Council of Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motions. Moving on. First Reading of Bills. Let us proceed. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Third Reading of Bills. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to return to Item 5. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Netser.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your consent. Mr. Speaker, this is the first time my constituent, Ben Ell, has been here. We call him Ittukallak in Coral Harbour. His daughter just graduated as a nurse this morning. We're proud of her. He is very capable. He went fishing with his father at seven years old and his father fell in the water and couldn't get out. He pulled his father out of the water and saved his life when he was seven years old. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome my very dear friend, Ben Ell, Ittukallak.

>>Applause

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to comment briefly on the man we call Ittukallak in Coral Harbour. When they lost their father, my maternal cousin Veronica Ell would entrust me with stories. When he lost his father, he has taken care of his mother, serves his mother in every capacity, and is now the unquestioned leader of his siblings after the loss of their father. Thank you, Ben Ittukallak Ell.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Going back to the orders of the day. Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 23:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

>>Laughter

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I am well aware we are exhausted as we have had a long session. Nonetheless, we wouldn't be able to complete our work, especially me in my role as the Speaker, if I was remiss in not thanking all the staff who assist and serve us. I would like to thank the following people on your behalf. Once I have stated their names, we can then applaud them.

This session would not operate smoothly if we didn't receive assistance and a broad range of services from many different people, and in particular I wish to thank the staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Quirke, Stephen, and Brenda work tirelessly. I am particularly proud of Brenda, who just started working and was thrust into this session, as she handled it like an old professional, as she helped to complete all of the preparations.

We also have workers that we rarely ever see, but they allow the public to view and hear us on television and the staff working upstairs, as well as behind the wall. Although I won't mention their names, I also thank them profusely for allowing Nunavummiut to be engaged.

Further, our legislative interpreters since members do talk a lot and get tired, but the interpreters speak non-stop as they convey every member's talking points. I

wish to specifically mention them. The Inuinnaqtun interpreters are James, Allen, and Gwen. On the Inuktitut side, our interpreters are Mary, Blandina, Philip, and Andrew.

Further, there are other workers who rarely are at the Assembly and who especially are assets to members. Alex Baldwin provides tremendous support to all of the MLAs here and the team he works with, Siobhan and others.

I certainly hope my colleagues will experience a safe summer, enjoying the season with our relatives and to do the activities we love to do. To the people who were just appointed today, we are proud of you and Nunavummiut have expectations from us all to move forward.

This summer many species of animals will migrate north and it seems easier to harvest animals during the summer months, with different species arriving. I certainly hope that all Nunavummiut who go harvesting will remember their elders, to put aside delicacies and portions the elders may love to consume and offer it to them. Our elders will continue to hold a position of great esteem here in Nunavut.

I wish everyone to have a wonderful summer and to return safely here for our next session. Thank you.

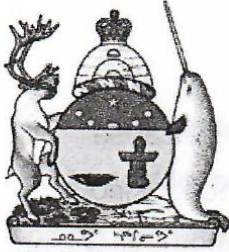
>>Applause

This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 23, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 20:14

Appendix – June 14, 2018



Return to Oral Question

Asked by: John Main, MLA for Arviat North/Whale Cove

Asked of: The Honourable Jeannie Ehloak

Number: 151 – 5(2)

Date: June 11, 2018

Subject: Decriminalization of Marijuana

Question & Response:

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'll be specific with my supplementary. In terms of the drug trade in Nunavut right now, does the Department of Justice know how many people are involved in the illegal drug trade in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ehloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Main, for your question. At this time I don't have that detail of information, but I can get the information, if the member so requests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We do not have specific statistics on how many Nunavummiut are involved in the drug trade. The most recent police-reported crime statistics from Statistics Canada, for 2016, state there were 202 incidents of drug crime, which is approximately double the national average for drug crime.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm concerned because bootleggers sell for a profit and it's obvious that they're going to be looking at other sources of income. For those of us in the communities, what are we going to expect once cannabis is legalized? The (interpretation ends) experts (interpretation) might turn to (interpretation ends) hard drugs (interpretation) or a larger amount of alcohol that might be bootlegged. That is what I'm anticipating.

What does the Department of Justice anticipate? Do you think that there are going to be (interpretation ends) harder drugs (interpretation) being sold or larger amounts of alcohol once cannabis is legalized nationwide? What kinds of plans do you have in place in anticipation of the legalization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is an issue faced by all jurisdictions across the country, including Nunavut. In our territory, through legalization and regulation, the planned result is that cannabis will become more accessible and safer for adult Nunavummiut who choose to use cannabis. They will not have to turn to drug dealers, or take whatever products the drug dealers may be trying to sell them. Legalization of cannabis will also allow law enforcement to target cases involving harder drugs. We also recognize that the vast majority of illegal drugs do not originate in our territory; they are sent in from somewhere else. Also, not all of the money spent on illegal drugs stays in Nunavut. Under the proposed Nunavut Bill, there will be options for local economic opportunity through legal licenced cannabis stores and lounges, if the community supports the idea. The Department of Justice will continue work with the RCMP, other justice stakeholders, and as other federal, provincial and territorial governments, to target the illegal drug trade and limit the potential impacts of cannabis legalization to ensure the public's safety.