



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 29

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Pages 1780 – 1841

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Joe Enook
(Tununiq)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

Joelie Kaernerik
(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)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for the Utility Rates Review
Council*

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)
*Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment;
Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Hon. George Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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

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*

Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Cathy Towtongie
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Charlie Audlakiak

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1780
Ministers' Statements	1780
Members' Statements	1785
Returns to Oral Questions*	1790
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1791
Oral Questions.....	1792
Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters*	1809
Tabling of Documents	1810
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1812
Report of the Committee of the Whole	1839
Third Reading of Bills.....	1839
Orders of the Day	1840

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, November 7, 2018.....1780

B.

Ministers' Statements

116 – 5(2): Homeownership as an Option (Kusugak).....1780

117 – 5(2): Policy Foundations Program (Savikataaq)1781

118 – 5(2): Whale Cove TB Screening Clinic (Hickes).....1782

119 – 5(2): Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan Public Hearing (Ehaloak).....1783

120 – 5(2): Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store Survey (Hickes)1783

121 – 5(2): Qilaut, Nunavut's Inuktitut Songwriting Contest Winners (Joanasie).....1784

122 – 5(2): Support for Nunavut Arctic College's Social Service Worker Diploma Program
(Sheutiapik).....1785

C.

Members' Statements

195 – 5(2): International Inuit Day (Towtongie).....1785

196 – 5(2): Incident Report on Suicide (Lightstone).....1786

197 – 5(2): Appreciation of All Supporters (Keyootak).....1787

198 – 5(2): International Inuit Day (Nakashuk)1788

199 – 5(2): Happy Birthday to Grandson (Qirngnuq)1788

200 – 5(2): Issues with Polar Bear Management (Main).....1788

201 – 5(2): Acknowledging a Long-serving Member of the Canadian Rangers (Akeegok)....1789

202 – 5(2): Appreciation of Search and Rescue Volunteers (Joanasie)1790

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 186 – 5(2): Wildlife Damage Prevention Program (Ehaloak).....1790

Return to Oral Question 195 – 5(2): Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds (Ehaloak).....1791

Return to Oral Question 208 – 5(2): Student Accommodations for Iqaluit Residents (Joanasie)
.....1791

Return to Oral Question 255 – 5(2): New Power Plants and Generators (Ehaloak)1791

E.

Oral Questions

257 – 5(2): Wolf Populations and Pilot Projects (Kamingoak).....1792

258 – 5(2): Wet Shelters (Angnakak).....1793

259 – 5(2): Government of Nunavut-Agnico Eagle Mines Memorandum of Understanding
(Towtongie)1795

260 – 5(2): Housing Allocations and Funding (Qirngnuq)1797

261 – 5(2): Mental Health Services (Lightstone)1799

262 – 5(2): Community Aerodrome Radio Stations (Rumbolt)1800

263 – 5(2): Conservation Officer Vacancy Rate (Keyootak)1802

264 – 5(2): Draft Polar Bear Co-Management Plan (Main).....1803

265 – 5(2): Federal Support for Health Facilities (Nakashuk)1805

266 – 5(2): The Need for a Mental Health Facility (Akoak).....1806

F.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 005 – 5(2): Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act
(Main)1809

Committee Report 006 – 5(2): Presentation of the Report of the Standing Committee on the Review of the 2016-2017 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board (Main).....	1809
---	------

G.

Tabling of Documents

089 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Nunavut Development Corporation Annual Report (Akeeagok)	1810
090 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Annual Report (Akeeagok)	1810
091 – 5(2): Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Spring 2018 Territorial Gathering, April 17 to 19, 2018, Rankin Inlet (Sheutiapik).....	1810
092 – 5(2): 2015 Annual Report for the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Appeals Tribunal (Hickes).....	1811
093 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Qulliq Energy Corporation Annual Report (Ehaloak).....	1811
094 – 5(2): Nunavut Emergency Management Annual Report 2016 (Kusugak)	1811
095 – 5(2): Nunavut Emergency Management Annual Report 2017 (Kusugak)	1811
096 – 5(2): Resolutions Adopted at the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (Akoak)	1811
097 – 5(2): Letter from Hamlet of Gjoa Haven Regarding Need for Mental Health and Addictions Centre (Akoak)	1811
098 – 5(2): 2019 Sitting Calendar of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut (Speaker)	1812

H.

Bills

Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019 – Consideration in Committee.....	1812
Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018 – Consideration in Committee	1819
Bill 02 – Chartered Professional Accountants Act – Consideration in Committee.....	1828

Bill 02 – Chartered Professional Accountants Act – Third Reading.....	1840
Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019 – Third Reading	1840
Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018 – Third Reading	1840

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Premier (interpretation) and my colleagues, good afternoon. Visitors in the gallery, welcome to the House and good afternoon. Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Further, my fellow residents of Pond Inlet and especially my wife, I say “good day” to you.

Now going to the orders of the day. Ministers’ Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements**Minister’s Statement 116 – 5(2):
Homeownership as an Option**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, programs that encourage and support homeownership are important for increasing the diversity of affordable housing options for Nunavummiut. Homeownership offers people the opportunity to build self-reliance and to have a home that meets their family’s needs.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation, through its homeownership programs, makes available \$4.6 million annually to help Nunavummiut with the high costs related to homeownership.

(interpretation ends) There are programs that help with financing the purchase or building of a home, replacing the home’s oil tank, as well as home renovations, including emergency renovations. There are also programs that help senior citizens and persons with disabilities with upgrades to their homes that improve liveability and function.

Supporting homeownership within the housing continuum is one of the priorities of the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. This includes encouraging government staff housing and public housing tenants to explore their options for homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* directs the corporation to examine how current homeownership programs are designed and delivered. The corporation is reviewing its suite of

homeownership programs and will consider making design changes to more clearly establish outcomes, looking at ways to better serve Nunavummiut.

As part of this work, the corporation conducted a survey of GN staff in July 2018 to gauge interest in or experience with homeownership. A high number of GN staff participated and the results will be incorporated into the final report on program design change recommendations.

Nunavummiut who are interested in homeownership, including public housing and staff housing tenants, can get information about the corporation's homeownership programs from their local housing organization, as well as on the corporation's website: nunavuthousing.ca.

Mr. Speaker, we are serious about addressing Nunavut's housing needs and homeownership is one way we will do this. I look forward to seeing more Nunavummiut taking advantage of the corporation's homeownership programs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Savikataaq.

Minister's Statement 117 – 5(2): Policy Foundations Program

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People of Arviat, I say "good day" and daughter, I say "hello" to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, I rise today to announce the successful completion of the first cohort of the Policy Foundations Program.

Policy Foundations is the first of three streams of the Policy Development Program intended for Inuit Government of Nunavut employees who are interested in learning the process of public policy development. The four three-day modules ran from October 2017 to March 2018 and 13 of 16 participants successfully completed the program in Iqaluit.

A graduation ceremony took place on March 8, 2018 for the 13 graduates. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank them and they are:

- Naomie Pudluk from the Department of Community and Government Services;
- Sarah Nangmalik from the Department of Culture and Heritage;
- Thomas Cousins from the Department of Economic Development and Transportation;
- Lucy Aqpik from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs;
- Annie Joannie and Kalapik Korgak from the Department of Finance;
- Kakki Peter and Rhoda Palluq from the Department of Family Services;
- Napatchie Goupil from the Department of Health;

- Bill Tagalik and Sapatie Ell from the Department of Justice; and
- Francine Kablutsiak and Vanessa Kalluak from the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, their success would not have been possible without the support of their supervisors, colleagues, and most of all their family and friends. On behalf of the GN, I congratulate the graduates and I am confident the skills they acquired through this program will serve them well in their future endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 118 – 5(2):
Whale Cove TB Screening Clinic**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 22, 2018 the Department of Health began our second community-wide prevention screening effort to combat tuberculosis (TB) in the territory. We have established this temporary TB screening clinic in Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, in early 2018 Health's first community-wide screening in Qikiqtarjuaq led to increased diagnosis and treatment of both active and latent TB. Of those eligible, 86 percent completed the screening process, which resulted in identifying newly diagnosed cases of latent TB. Mr. Speaker, the invaluable lessons learned from Qikiqtarjuaq are being applied now in Whale Cove.

This clinic in Whale Cove serves as an opportunity to learn integral lessons not just from the screening itself but from the valued members of the community. The knowledge gained from both Qikiqtarjuaq and Whale Cove will help Health join the flight in eliminating TB across the entire territory.

Mr. Speaker, Health is leading this initiative with the support of the Hamlet of Whale Cove and other Government of Nunavut departments, notably the departments of Community and Government Services and Education. On October 17, 2018 Health hosted a town hall and feast in Whale Cove to provide information about TB and the clinic and to answer any questions from the public. It was attended by over 60 people and was considered a success.

I am pleased to say that in the first 12 days that the clinic was open, 52 percent of community members had already been seen. The clinic is running on schedule and is expected to be finished by the end of November.

Mr. Speaker, our efforts in Qikiqtarjuaq and Whale Cove are just the beginning of Health's commitment to eliminate TB across the territory by 2030, but we do not fight alone. With the support of the GN, the communities and their inhabitants, and people across our country, we all stand together to help Nunavummiut lead the healthy lives they deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 119 – 5(2):
Nunavut Polar Bear Co-
Management Plan Public Hearing**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and especially to my family, friends, and constituents in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide an update today on the upcoming Nunavut Wildlife Management Board public hearing for the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has scheduled the public hearing for November 13 to 16, 2018 at the Iqaluit Cadet Hall.

This public hearing will give the Government of Nunavut the opportunity to present on the vast amount of work and consultation that has gone into preparing this co-management plan and to ensure that the plan incorporates community concerns, along with the best available science and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

This public hearing is also an opportunity for representatives from across Nunavut to voice the concerns of their communities regarding the management of polar bears. I would like to encourage those attending the public hearing to read the co-management plan and express their concerns in order to be able to work together to best manage such an important northern species.

This plan is the result of several years of ongoing collaboration between the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Qikiqtani, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regional wildlife

boards, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 120 – 5(2):
Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store
Survey**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. In September, Nunavummiut were asked to participate in the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store Survey. In all there were 787 valid responses and the information they provided will help our government understand what people think about the store's operations and the impacts the store has had since it opened as a three-year pilot project in September 2017.

Mr. Speaker, from the start, the store's objectives were clear: liberalize access to lower alcohol content beverages at affordable prices to reduce the consumption of hard alcohol, encourage people to drink responsibly, and target bootlegging.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to share with my colleagues that the initial findings show that those objectives are being met. While we still have a lot of work to do, the survey indicates we are moving in the right direction to meet these goals. The majority of respondents stated that they consume about the same number of drinks now as they did before the store opened. However, they are choosing lower alcohol alternatives. Since the opening of the store, 78

percent fewer people stated that they consume hard alcohol more frequently than lower alcohol alternatives.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen a notable reduction in the number of people who purchase bootlegged alcohol. Nineteen percent of respondents said they purchased alcohol from a bootlegger before the store opened while only 4 percent have purchased from a bootlegger since the opening of the store.

Mr. Speaker, a full summary of responses to the survey will shortly be made available online at www.nulc.ca.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to monitor impacts of the beer and wine store pilot project. At the same time we will continue to educate Nunavummiut on the responsible use of alcohol through our Let's Be Aware/Ujjiqsuqta campaign, which promotes healthy and informed choices as a way to prevent alcohol-related harm. People can find useful information about responsible use of alcohol at www.responsiblenunavut.ca or www.ujjiqsuqta.ca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 121 – 5(2):
Qilaut, Nunavut's Inuktitut
Songwriting Contest Winners**

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

Mr. Speaker, in solidarity with the Inuit Circumpolar Council's celebration of Inuit Day, today, November 7, 2018, I am pleased to report on Qilaut, Nunavut's annual Inuktitut songwriting contest. This program celebrates Nunavut's vibrant Inuktitut music scene in our territory. By singing in Inuktitut, Nunavummiut are contributing to strengthening and enhancing the use of Inuktitut in our daily lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage received a total of 23 song submissions from Nunavummiut by the deadline of October 8, 2018 with Nunavutaaqsimaliqtiluta (Nunavut 20th Anniversary Celebration) songs theme.

Mr. Speaker, it was not an easy task to select the top best songs. So many good songs were indeed submitted. I would like to particularly thank the judges, themselves being well-known artists, for their time: Paul Irksuk, Nancy Kudlun, and Lucassie Peter.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to announce the top three winning songs:

- First place: *Nunaga* by Joey Nowyuk of Pangnirtung;
- Second place: *Iqqaumaquvagit* by Amanda Ishulutaq of Pangnirtung, and
- Third place: *Tamaani* by Joey Nowyuk of Pangnirtung.

Pangnirtung people must be very good singers.

>> *Singing*

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, the top ten songs will be recorded professionally. A CD launch is planned to be released during the Nunavut 20th Anniversary Celebration in 2019. I would like to thank all entrants for their participation, and let's keep singing, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 122 – 5(2):
Support for Nunavut Arctic
College's Social Service Worker
Diploma Program**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to support the recent announcement regarding the expanded delivery of Nunavut Arctic College's Social Service Worker Program.

The Department of Family Services is continually working to increase the number of Nunavut Inuit working as community social services workers. To accomplish this, the department relies on programs like Nunavut Arctic College's Social Service Worker Program to recruit Inuit frontline workers.

Uqaqtitsijii, the department continues to support this program at Nunavut Arctic College. We are working towards recruiting more graduates to work as frontline staff within the department. We are also working with Nunavut Arctic College to identify training opportunities for students to gain experience with the

department.

Uqaqtitsijii, we support the expansion of the program and look forward to the impact it will have on our recruitment of Inuit community social services workers for Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 195 – 5(2):
International Inuit Day**

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

Now, today is the global recognition of Inuit as it is Inuit Day which has received acknowledgement from the governments of Greenland, Alaska as well as here in Canada, including Nunavik.

The Inuit Circumpolar Council, or ICC, has recognized this day as being the day of Inuit, and I want to share my expressions of pride with all of my colleagues sitting here today who are my fellow Inuit. Nonetheless, I want to voice my immense pride in our ancestors who have allowed us to survive to 2018.

Our people have created some iconic pieces like the qajaq shared with the world, including the igloo now also shared with the world, and furthermore,

Inuit still eat frozen and raw meats. Our people are seamstresses and hunters culturally. My expectations are as descendants of Inuit together here today, we should voice our pride in our people as today is our day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 196 – 5(2):
Incident Report on Suicide**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would love to take the time to provide a positive member's statement, but unfortunately today my statement is going to be quite heavy.

Mr. Speaker, in the spring sitting I shared my sister's story to raise awareness of domestic violence in the hopes of preventing further pain, loss, and suffering. Unfortunately we have a very long way to go. Immediate changes need to occur.

Mr. Speaker, a constituent bravely shared their story with me and I'll now share it with the Assembly. Constituents have shared with me some incident reports with details that help illustrate the cracks in our system.

This summer the father of a family was struggling with depression and suicidal ideation. His partner sought help when his behaviour escalated. Both the mother and the young children's safety were at risk.

Friends intervened and the RCMP was

called, and the father was restrained and taken to the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

After the family and friends removed the unsafe items from the house, they also went to the hospital. There they met with the manager of the Iqaluit mental health to share the ongoing emotional abuse, the risk factors and behaviours, and the repeated threat to their safety. Without warning or notice being given to the mother and the family, the father was later released from the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the incident report identifies the way in which this case was handled unfortunately posed a danger to the father, the mother, and their children. I'll read a few excerpts from the report.

“At no point did the mental health worker offer to make a safety plan or referral for the immediate safety of the mother or her children. No referral was offered for the children to have access to mental health support or the support of a worker from the Child and Youth Foundation or child and family services. No follow-up support was offered for his partner, children, or the people he threatened.”

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

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Lastly, the father was released without

warning or time for his family and friends to make sure that they were safe.

Mr. Speaker, the father's release from the hospital with the lack of a treatment plan, lack of a safety plan or referral to services that could help in the process not only endangered him but also his partner, their children, and their friends, all of which had been put at risk.

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

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

**Member's Statement 197 – 5(2):
Appreciation of All Supporters**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice my appreciation and to thank people by having my colleagues jointly share this appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that it is near the end of our sitting, but firstly let me voice my gratitude to the viewing audience in Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River prior to making my statement. Mr. Speaker, this includes my relatives.

Mr. Speaker, we are ending this fall session with our last day tomorrow. Although it felt like tomorrow was far off at the beginning, we are reaching the end of our session and we would be remiss if we didn't voice our gratitude. Sometimes it can be quite tiring while other days are joyous as every day's meeting is different.

Mr. Speaker, we must voice our thanks

to our family members we have left behind, our relatives, wives, husbands, including our children. They were patiently waiting while we spent our days attending meetings here, so let us voice our unending gratitude to our loved ones as we need their support.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation and to have colleagues join me in voicing this. We generally voice our gratitude during our sessions, but we are all aware that while we are at session, residents in many communities pray for us. To the residents praying on our behalf, let us exceedingly thank them for their support, as residents in the communities, whom we can't see, are praying for good leadership. You can feel the prayers' effects at times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to express this opinion.

Further, the people who either watch the televised proceedings or listen to the radio broadcast also know that we don't just start our meetings. We always open our meetings with a prayer.

Mr. Speaker, this session had several periods of contentiousness and although several events transpired as a result, today we have surpassed these hurdles and our session is coming to a close. To every person who has said a prayer for us, let us voice our gratitude publicly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 198 – 5(2):
International Inuit Day**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Pangnirtung, and the audience here, feel welcome.

I have more than one thing to say, but I would first like to say that in Pangnirtung they are having an opening of a First Nations Bank. It will be the very first bank to be opened in Pangnirtung. It will be at the new Co-op store and today is opening day. I'm very happy for you and hope it all works out well in Pangnirtung. That was the first thing I wanted to say.

I would also like to say that it is Inuit Day today and all my fellow Inuit in Nunavut and everywhere, we should all be proud to be Inuit. Our parents and grandparents used their traditional culture as Inuit to stay alive and our ancestors never just gave up. Let's do the same thing, even though each day is different. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 199 – 5(2):
Happy Birthday to Grandson**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak, as well as my colleagues and our Premier.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add to what my colleagues spoke about today being

International Inuit Day. I'm very happy about that. I'm also very pleased that some of us are grandparents in the House here and we have our grandchild in the House here. I know that our hearts and minds sometimes become hard and frozen, but our grandchildren melt our hearts and minds.

I would like to wish my grandchild a happy birthday today. Sebastian Ablurijjuaq is turning 11 and he is named after me as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the House to join me in celebrating my grandson's birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 200 – 5(2):
Issues with Polar Bear
Management**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues, Premier, and ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I have a heavy issue to talk about today in regard to polar bear management. It has been a concern for a very long time, especially in my community of Whale Cove and other various communities in Nunavut.

As those of us who are sitting around the table here are aware, last summer there was a fatal attack. Two of our fellow Nunavummiut passed away because they were mauled by polar bears. I am sorry to the people of the families and I send

them my condolences. It is very hard to know exactly what we will do when we look back. We start thinking what we should have done to prevent it.

As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I am not an expert on wildlife. I wanted to point that out, Mr. Speaker. The elders are the knowledge-holders of wildlife and the people who work with wildlife have that knowledge. I have no idea how to make a suggestion in regard to polar bear management.

However, I am quite pleased that the Minister of Environment made an announcement earlier that they will convene representatives to hold a polar bear management hearing in Iqaluit. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be holding a public hearing, with public announcements already being aired that they will use *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and scientific knowledge. I am very pleased with that.

Furthermore, our government will be taking the lead at that hearing, which we were informed of. The department is working hard on this issue and I know that the government officials are working diligently on this matter, which is quite understandable. At the appropriate time I will be asking questions to the minister.

I expect that with this meeting, they will bring out better recommendations to resolve the issue because Nunavummiut are looking for answers. I hope the representatives will strongly voice their concerns, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 201 – 5(2):
Acknowledging a Long-serving
Member of the Canadian Rangers**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to acknowledge a resident of your constituency community.

I rise today to acknowledge Okookoo Quaraq, who has been a member of the Canadian Rangers for many years now, and he first joined the Rangers when living in Grise Fiord. Today as his residency is now in Pond Inlet, he has been part of the local Rangers since.

He has been with the Rangers now for 54 years and maintains his membership in that body. He told me once that he sometimes wanted to resign from the Canadian Rangers. However, he enjoys the work and is very dedicated and his fellow Rangers kept encouraging him to stay. It was back in 1964 when he joined the Canadian Rangers.

Mr. Speaker, Okookoo has shown extreme commitment to being a Ranger. Tonight they will be holding a meeting for the local Rangers. Further, he has partaken in different exercises travelling outside of the communities. Although he won't mention this fact, he has travelled to the North Pole on more than one occasion, as he went to the North Pole via snowmobile three times.

Last spring the Department of National Defence acknowledged him with a long service award, including a Commissioner's Medal and various other recognition awards, including the

(interpretation ends) Queen Diamond Jubilee (interpretation) and in English, (interpretation ends) the Canadian Forces' Decoration (interpretation) amongst his many awards.

Mr. Speaker, we are aware that Remembrance Day is coming shortly in this month, and we will commemorate this day with the Rangers and the Junior Rangers. We should remember the members of the Rangers in the Arctic on that day.

Further, Okookoo, I am very appreciative and thankful for your dedication and passing on your knowledge to younger members of the Rangers. I encourage you to continue your work in your scenic community of Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 202 – 5(2):
Appreciation of Search and Rescue
Volunteers**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to the search and rescue teams in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, last month, as we are aware, there was a boat accident in Cape Dorset and they had a search in the community of Cape Dorset, which was a difficult time. I know that it's very

difficult for the community and for the families.

Mr. Speaker, a person from Cape Dorset was able to be saved. Thinking of the family members, I would like to thank each and every one who took part in the search and rescue, especially these individuals at the (interpretation ends) Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (interpretation) and Nunavut Emergency Management.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the community search and rescue teams. The municipality and the recreation committee will be holding a feast to express their gratitude to the search and rescue team who volunteer and to express their gratitude and to recognize them for putting their lives on line searching for individuals. We are very grateful when we find survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude to all search and rescue teams and to the government's emergency services team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list, so we will move on. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister for Environment, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions*

**Return to Oral Question 186 – 5(2):
Wildlife Damage Prevention
Program**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a return to Oral Question

*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Oral Questions 186 – 5(2), 195 – 5(2), 208 – 5(2), and 255 – 5(2).

No. 186 – 5(2) asked by Mr. John Main, the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, on October 25, 2018 concerning the Wildlife Damage Prevention Program.

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite long. I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into the *Hansard* for the record and for distribution to all members and be entered as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Oral Question 195 – 5(2):
Beverly and Qamanirjuaq
Caribou Herds**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a return to Oral Question 195 – 5(2) asked by Mr. John Main, the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, on October 26, 2018 concerning the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds.

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite long. I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into the *Hansard* for the public record and for distribution to all members and be entered as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Joanasi.

**Return to Oral Question 208 – 5(2):
Student Accommodations for
Iqaluit Residents**

Hon. David Joanasi (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Oral Question 208 – 5(2) asked by Member Lightstone, Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, on October 29, 2018 concerning Arctic College student accommodations for Iqaluit residents.

Mr. Speaker, the response is quite lengthy, but I have filed it with the Clerk to be entered into the *Hansard* and I encourage my colleagues to read it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Oral Question 255 – 5(2):
New Power Plants and Generators**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. John Main, the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, on November 5, 2018 concerning new power plants and generators.

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite long. I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into the *Hansard* for the public record and for distribution to all members and be entered as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank

you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I would like to welcome the people from Pangnirtung; first of all, Iga Ishulutak, who is a mother and grandmother, and her daughter Margaret, who had left, and Amanda Ishulutaq and her husband and children. The couple here sings songs together. Also, Joey Nowyuk was recognized for his songs. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I almost had no more names on my list.

>> *Laughter*

Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the Qilaut songwriting contest winners are here. I would first of all like to recognize Joey Nowyuk. Please feel welcome.

>> *Applause*

We also have Amanda Ishulutaq and her partner, Joshua Kakee.

>> *Applause*

They have a band and we would like to welcome them to Iqaluit.

I would also like to welcome Tocié Burke, Elizabeth Allakariallak-Roberts, and Saa Pitsiulak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Welcome to the gallery. I welcome the songwriters. I look forward to listening to beautiful music. Welcome.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I definitely have no more names on my list. Let's proceed.

>> *Laughter*

Before we proceed, as you are aware, my colleagues, the Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck, and Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa, are not here due to illness. I wish you a speedy recovery.

Let's proceed. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 257 – 5(2): Wolf Populations and Pilot Projects

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment and they concern the issue of the wolf population in my region of the territory. Mr. Speaker, I think that she is the third minister whom I have raised this issue with.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is very much aware, significant concerns have been raised by the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization about the threat that the growing wolf population poses to the health of our caribou and muskox herds.

Under its *Seal and Fur Programs Policy*, the Department of Environment

administers the Fur Assessment and Advance Program and the Fall Incentive Program.

Can the minister confirm how much the government currently pays hunters for wolf furs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak, for your question. The hunters support program for the furs, they can receive up to 50 percent of the value of the pelt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Will the minister commit to reviewing this program with the goal of enhancing the incentives for hunters to keep the wolf population in check? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak, for your question. As Minister of Environment, I will commit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under section 176 of the *Wildlife Act*, the minister is required by law to table a comprehensive report in the Legislative Assembly every five years concerning wildlife management in the territory. The most recent report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 19, 2013, clearly stated, "...hunter observations in many Nunavut communities indicate that...wolf populations are increasing" and that "There is concerns that predators may be contributing to the decline in caribou numbers."

Mr. Speaker, the next report is due now. Will the minister commit to tabling it before the end of our current sitting which ends tomorrow? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Ms. Kamingoak, I cannot commit to tabling the report tomorrow because I haven't seen it myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 258 – 5(2): Wet Shelters

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services. It's going to be something along what we have discussed previously.

Mr. Speaker, the issues of poverty, homelessness, and addictions are often closely linked. People can lose their jobs and homes because of addiction and substance use. Being homeless is a difficult situation to be in, but when you are homeless and you have an addiction, it's even harder.

Our shelters have beds, but those beds are only available if you are sober. What do you do if you struggle to get sober, if your addiction makes it difficult for you to stay sober, but you are homeless and you have nowhere to go?

Can the minister provide an update on what consideration has been given to opening a wet shelter in Iqaluit, a place where homeless people can go even if they are under the influence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question. To be honest, I have not had any discussion with wet shelters because we're busy trying to maintain meeting just the basic needs of regular shelters; *qimaaviit*, men's shelters, and such. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that even those with addictions deserve to have the same kind of treatment and should be part of the

plan now, not for later on for somebody else, as though that you know that people suffering from addictions have to be looked upon once the other people who don't have addictions are looked at. I think everybody needs to be looked at.

Mr. Speaker, the government has opened a local beer and wine store, which perhaps can make it more difficult for those struggling with alcohol addiction to resist temptation.

Can the minister clarify whether her department works with the management of the Iqaluit men's and women's shelters to monitor the number of homeless individuals asking for a bed for the night and how many of those individuals are turned away because they are not sober or they cannot stay sober? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for those questions. Yes, I had discussions with you and I work hard on those issues. Right now I can say that some of the people who try to use those shelters are intoxicated and we try to figure out if they have somewhere else to go because of course the individuals who are at those shelters do not want to see intoxicated people. That's the current policy. (interpretation ends) We do work with the people who do come to our facilities with intoxication and look at alternatives and majority of the time they have family or friends they can go to. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Your final supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why people do go to shelters is because they really don't have anywhere to go. Mr. Speaker, I have been given to understand that our neighbours in Yellowknife opened a wet shelter and that did not allow drugs or alcohol on site but did permit homeless individuals to stay there even if they were intoxicated.

Can the minister provide an update on any discussions that she may have had with her counterparts in the Northwest Territories regarding the effectiveness of their wet shelter initiative and whether or not it would work here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I welcome that idea and I look forward to enquiring with the NWT to see what their lessons learned are. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 259 – 5(2): Government of Nunavut-Agnico Eagle Mines Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

As the minister is very much aware, our communities in Nunavut, especially Rankin Inlet, suffer from shortages of housing. Currently in Rankin Inlet as winter is coming, I have seen homeless individuals with children who are using sheds.

Mr. Speaker, in September of 2017 the Government of Nunavut and Agnico Eagle Mines signed a new memorandum of understanding. This MOU sets out a number of priority areas of cooperation between the two parties, including the issue of housing. The MOU establishes an oversight committee, which has the mandate to “identify and propose initiatives for collaboration.”

Can the minister describe how the housing corporation has been working as part of the MOU's oversight committee to identify housing initiatives that will benefit communities in the Kivalliq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that very good question. Shortage of housing in Nunavut is of a major concern and has the most effect on the lives of Nunavummiut. It impacts many people.

On the subject of the shortage of housing and how we work with the mines near Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake, I've had discussions with the president of Agnico Eagle Mines on more than one occasion on how we can work together on the housing shortage and how the workers at the mine can get into homeownership.

I've had discussions with them on the shortage of housing and I will continue to have discussions with them in the coming years, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, residents of Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and other communities are excited about the new Meliadine and Whale Tail projects. Can the minister indicate what discussions have taken place with Agnico Eagle concerning the possibility of the company contributing to the cost of constructing new housing in the region or constructing units itself? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question, Ms. Towntongie. The president of Agnico Eagle and senior staff and I have had discussions in Rankin Inlet and Ottawa. I do have discussions with them and I have discussed, as I indicated earlier, about the homeownership programs through the housing corporation. They have said that they will review those programs to see how their workers can access funding, such as saving money toward homeownership. The company is well aware that if their employees can get their own homes, it will benefit the employees and the community. We also talked about tiny homes and how they can work on that.

We have ongoing discussions and I foresee more meetings in the upcoming months or days. There's a growing need for housing and there are more and more companies coming up to Nunavut to do work and they hire workers. They should be involved in dealing with the shortage of housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his proper response. With respect to the mine and our community of Rankin Inlet, we used to have a fairly high hill that was excavated using dynamite when they started to build that road to the mine and that hill is no longer there.

Now, I would love to see that kind of urgency and commitment placed on our severe housing shortage, and I would like innovative ideas as we live in the arctic lands here in Nunavut. With winter approaching, we have parents with children who are homeless and I know the minister is protective of them as well and I want to try to protect them.

However, (interpretation ends) companies like Agnico Eagle are often innovators when it comes to developing new technologies. Can the minister indicate if the company is working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to look at innovative technologies in the area of housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's my final question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, as I said a number of times, we've had a number of discussions with Agnico Eagle, the president and senior staff, regarding the need for housing of their staff and Nunavummiut and the severe shortage of housing in Nunavut. We've had discussions on how they could contribute to deal with the housing needs of their staff. I believe those meetings are fruitful and they will continue. We've had discussions from them on things like tiny homes or small homes and stuff like that. They are keen to look at ways of helping on that issue.

I assure you that those discussions will continue. They have given me assurance that they will help wherever and however they can, but mining companies build mines and we know that. In this case they are anxious to help us try dealing with the severe housing shortage that is across Nunavut. It will compound itself that much more in communities like Rankin Inlet, where the mine is there and people come looking for work and we will need to find houses for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 260 – 5(2): Housing Allocations and Funding

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

All Nunavut communities suffer from a

shortage of housing, including the communities of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation currently uses a needs-based formula to determine how many new public housing units a community will receive.

For the record, can the minister confirm that 10 new public housing units are planned to be constructed in Kugaaruk during the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague for the question. If my notes are correct, then I concur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): I thank the minister for his proper response. (interpretation ends) Earlier in our sitting, the minister tabled a document that detailed the current wait-lists for each community. This table indicate that Kugaaruk is currently ranked No. 2 in the needs list and Taloyoak is currently ranked No. 8. Can the minister confirm that consideration will be given to constructing new units in Taloyoak during the 2020-21 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank you for asking questions about that matter.

Now, the housing corporation assesses every community to determine which community faces the highest housing shortage. There are different assessments done in the communities, including the number of homeless residents, the number of housing units needed, and all of these factors are taken into consideration, including availability or lack of availability of housing units.

These comprise the various aspects listed in the policy document I handed out to all LHO boards and this is used to determine allocations. In following the formula, if his two constituency communities are identified in that listing, then yes, they would also receive housing units. However, we are trying to follow the formula that determines which community is facing the most severe housing crisis.

If it is listed with the correct numbers and as my colleague believes they should receive housing units in 2020, then that would be the case. We are trying to follow that document...actually we are following that formula in making assessments as to which community will be allocated housing units and when the units would be constructed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank the minister for his proper response. (interpretation ends) Earlier this month a question was asked in the House of Commons about the housing shortage in Nunavut. I was shocked to read that the federal Minister responsible stated that

the National Housing Strategy is “investing \$240.0 million in Nunavut...to provide 3,000 families” with housing.

Mr. Speaker, the federal minister’s calculator must have been malfunctioning on that day...

>>*Laughter*

...as there is no way that 3,000 new homes could be built with that amount of funding. Can our minister describe what efforts he is making to ensure that the federal government has a clear understanding of how severe our housing shortage actually is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that question. Now, there are scheduled national meetings that housing ministers attend in Canada, and we also meet with our federal counterpart who deals with housing when we are at these meetings.

During the last meeting, I met with the federal minister this spring, was it spring? Yes, at that time we discussed the challenges of the housing crisis we face and how real this crisis is here in Nunavut. As well, we discussed ways to resolve this challenge we face.

The minister spoke about the funding, and it’s unfortunate that we don’t receive a lump sum, as it is set for ten-year funding allocations that we use to construct the housing units which we try to extend for the entire ten-year period.

They do understand our challenge, as we have pointed it out on more than one occasion that this funding, although welcomed, is still insufficient and we also discussed how to add more funds to this here in Nunavut to alleviate our housing crisis. This is something I reiterate every time I meet with the federal minister.

It is obvious that when I meet him again in my capacity as the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, we will continue to hold discussions on this issue. It isn't impossible, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 261 – 5(2): Mental Health Services

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

In my statement the underlying factor was of course mental health and risks associated with disconnect between government departments and frontline staff. Unfortunately the story that was shared with me is not an isolated incident and occurs far too often.

My question to the minister is: how many more women and children do we need to lose to domestic violence and mental health-related instances before the mental health system adequately provides a coordinated service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the passion that the member brings to this topic and the buttons that it pushes.

That being said, we have made a number of improvements on the mental health delivery process in the last number of years by dedicating a more amount not just of money but to resources, creating more positions for mental health workers all across the territory, dozens of positions.

Mr. Speaker, with the incident or incidents that the member is alluding to, I would love to sit down with the member and with the families to go over their experience and to help maybe identify improvements that could be made to the system. Any time we're dealing with mental health, there are challenging circumstances in a number of case, as I know the member is very aware of. If I'm not aware of it, if the teams aren't aware of what specific issues that we can address, we're scrambling to make corrections or if we don't get the feedback, that's what's going to help us improve the system. Any feedback I can receive from the member, I'm very open to dialogue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was quite shocked to hear from this constituent and the circumstances surrounding the incident. Further, I was quite shocked when I found out that when this individual was released from the hospital after suffering mental health issues and having suicidal

thoughts, there was no warning provided to those who had initially brought him in, the mother and the children and the other family members, friends and family members.

My question is: what's the proper procedure that is supposed to take place when discharging patients who are suffering mental health issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my awareness, whenever somebody is discharged under those circumstances, the family would be communicated with. I can't speak to the specific circumstances of this incident. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that the minister has, over the last period, increased the amount of resources provided to mental health workers.

My last question is: currently how many psychiatrists are employed full time with the department, as well as how many mental health nurses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a fairly long list of the number of professionals that we have employed throughout the territory. Right

now we're looking at approximately 146 positions across the territory with regarding to mental health in different capacities, 43 PYs here in Iqaluit alone, to be a little bit more specific.

That being said, when we're looking at increasing budget amounts to deal with mental health and, as I'll be defending later today, there's still not enough money being invested into mental health. To me, those are successes that people are accessing more services than we're being able to predict. It's the tracking chart. Just here in Iqaluit alone, there were over 1,100 appointments made in the past year with mental health workers; 141 referrals to the QGH outside of those appointments, with over 570 people treated in those appointments.

I do see the success and I see the trend more and more for people to access services. We would need to make sure that we have the resources in place to address this increasing need. I look forward to future dialogue here in this House on making sure that I can help provide those increased resources to our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 262 – 5(2): Community Aerodrome Radio Stations

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

As the minister is aware, the operations of the community aerodrome stations, also known as CARS, are vital to the

safe operations of our airports. Local CARS operators provide accurate, up-to-the-minute weather reports that airlines require before deciding if they can proceed with a flight.

Mr. Speaker, the CARS operator in our community does an excellent job and our airport station is recognized as one of the most reliable in Nunavut. However, our CARS operator is just one person. When unavoidable situations arise, such as medical travel, the community is left without CARS services.

Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks there have been a number of cancellations of flights to and from Sanikiluaq and this is impacting the community, including services provided by the Department of Health.

As the minister is aware, a previous government made a decision to stop administering CARS services itself. An Ottawa-based company, ATS Services, now runs the service under contract with NAV CANADA.

Can the minister indicate how his department works with NAV CANADA and ATS Services to ensure the continuity of CARS services in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I share that concern with the community and the community is not alone. When a single CARS operator is not in the community, that vital program is put on hold. What my department officials have continued to do is have

discussions with NAV CANADA and their contract companies in terms of providing that level of service. We continue to remind them that it is their obligation to have that resource available to the communities. I will continue to encourage our officials to have that dialogue with NAV CANADA in terms of making sure that that service is available for every one of our communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During yesterday's sitting of the House, the Minister of Environment informed us that when a community is going without a conservation officer for a period of time, the department will rotate its personnel to cover the gap.

Will the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation commit to reviewing similar options in order to ensure that communities do not go without CARS services for extended periods of time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is something we have communicated with NAV CANADA in terms of ensuring that there is backup for observer communicators for each of the communities.

This month a concern was raised to me from another community and I have sent a letter off to NAV CANADA's chief executive officer indicating the need for

backup of CARS operators where there are single operators. It was specifically for that community and what I'm going to commit to do is communicate that to NAV CANADA to make it for the whole communities. For some of the smaller communities such as yours and the community I represent, that is a concern and I will commit to doing that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that commitment. During the previous Legislative Assembly many concerns were raised by many members, including myself, about the decision to contract our CARS services. Concerns were also raised by the decision to end Nunavut's Arctic College program to train airport observer communicators at its Rankin Inlet campus.

Can the minister confirm when the existing contract with ATS Services expires, and will he commit to undertaking a full review of how CARS services and training are delivered in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will commit to having further dialogue with NAV CANADA on this issue. They are the sole provider for all of Canada when it comes to observer communicators throughout Canada. This is one that I'll continue to stress and continue to try to get that for the observer communicators' training. I

don't know if there's a definitive time in terms of the contract with ATS and NAV CANADA and that's something I can look into, but I just want to assure and reaffirm that NAV CANADA is the provider for this and that is not within any of our departments in this government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Question 263 – 5(2): Conservation Officer Vacancy Rate

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

Mr. Speaker, some communities don't have a wildlife officer for a long time. We call them wildlife officers. Some people call them renewable resource officers. They're not hunters, but we call them hunters the way we call the wildlife officers.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Environment tell us how many communities don't have a wildlife officer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Keyootak, for your question. Currently there are five communities without conservation officers or wildlife officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The communities really need those officers, especially for the hunters. Sometimes they have to wait for a long time to sell their furs. In our community we mainly harvest sea mammals because we live on the shoreline, especially in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us which communities don't have wildlife officers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Keyootak, for your question. Unfortunately I don't have that information with me right now, as stated in my proceedings yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community that I represent hasn't had a wildlife officer for a long time. That's why I ask: when can we expect to have one in my community? Can the minister tell me when my community can expect the wildlife officer? When can we expect an announcement from the department when our community may get a wildlife officer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this time the Department of Environment is re-categorizing the conservation officer/wildlife officer positions so that we can fill those positions as quickly as we can. Once that's all done, we will be able to present a request to the Department of Finance or HR to start the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 264 – 5(2): Draft Polar Bear Co-Management Plan

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

In regard to polar bear management, there's an NWMB meeting in Iqaluit about polar bears. I read and tried to learn and understand about the Nunavut government's document (interpretation ends) regarding the draft management plan. (interpretation) Reading parts of it, it's very good reading material. For example, (interpretation ends) the plan acknowledges that in some parts of Nunavut there are too many bears both for public safety and the environment. (interpretation) This is not the first time we have heard of that and I was glad to read it.

As well, (interpretation ends) the guiding principles identify the need to fully integrate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in polar bear management and to consider public safety and the best available scientific data and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* when making

decisions.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this plan has been in the works for a while and the Department of Environment probably talked to many people. My question to the minister is: when did this work start and who has been consulted for this plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Main, for your question. The work on the draft plan started in February of 2014 and all communities in Nunavut were consulted, including the regional wildlife boards and with the co-management bodies. Those co-management bodies are the hunters and trappers organizations, like I stated, regional wildlife boards, elders, community members, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I'm reading off the GN's summary presentation of the draft plan, just to be clear. It mentions in here there is a lot of... There is talk about quotas, but it also says in here that "Quotas cannot address all public safety concerns" and it also says, "The plan identifies additional actions to help with public safety."

Will the minister be able to elaborate or provide further information on what

additional actions are being proposed under the draft co-management plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Main, for your question. The measures and objectives in the plan to address public safety include hiring bear monitors when needed and train and equip them; continue to develop and improve methods for protecting people, property, and meat caches; ensure that the wildlife damage compensation and the wildlife damage prevention programs are functional and being used; improve communications to the public about safety, deterrence, and available programs; and last, work with the hamlets and hunters and trappers organizations to improve local storage for meat caches at camps and communities as part of the bear-human conflict prevention program.

Currently some communities do have conservation officers or hire wildlife bear monitors to help within the community when there is an increase in bears coming into the community. They also do education in the schools to ensure that children learn about polar bears and the safety and what to watch for from polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister, for that response. (interpretation) There are many issues

that have been discussed. I don't know what the outcome of the hearings will be, but the draft plan was drafted by the government.

Looking at the topics that were discussed, does the Department of Environment expect additional funding? (interpretation ends) Does the Department of Environment anticipate requiring additional financial resources to implement this plan and, if so, how much? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's important to note that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board hearings on this matter will happen next week and the text of the draft plan will not be finalized until after the process is completed. It could be a number of months until we see the final report and until that final report is submitted to the Government of Nunavut, at this time we don't know exactly if there will be extra financial resources required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 265 – 5(2): Federal Support for Health Facilities

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. One of my colleagues had asked about it and this touches on it.

(interpretation ends) In the past couple

of weeks in the House there has been discussion of projects proposed by the Department of Health, although their progress seems to rely heavily on federal funding support.

Can the minister provide an update on the current status of the proposed Nunavut-based addictions and substance abuse treatment rehabilitation facility project, what level of federal support and funding has been committed to date, and when we will see any concrete information on this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. It's a little early. We are still in negotiations with partners, such as NTI, the federal government, a number of different stakeholders. The federal government has committed money which we have used for a feasibility study. The indications that we're getting right now is that they would prefer a facility of that nature here in Iqaluit to have access to larger resources. We are still in negotiations right now, so that's the most I can update right now.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) There has also been some discussion in the House regarding the establishment of a new mental health facility for Nunavut. Can the minister clearly explain what kind of services he envisions being provided at

the Nunavut-based mental health facility and, if any of those services will also address addictions and substance abuse issues, how that will impact the establishment of a stand-alone rehabilitation facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have some mental health facilities here in the territory and looking at a future one in Rankin Inlet. We have a facility in Cambridge Bay. We have a facility here in Iqaluit. Anytime we are dealing with mental health, obviously addictions can be a part of that, so those issues are being worked on as well.

When it comes to an actual, like a larger scale addictions facility, like I just mentioned, we are in discussions with a number of partners. I do look forward in the near future to updating this House on real progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There has been discussion of a new boarding home in Rankin Inlet, a new mental health facility in Rankin Inlet, and a new addictions and substance abuse rehabilitation facility in an as-yet undisclosed location. Can the minister confirm what specific financial commitments the federal government has made to support the ongoing progress of these projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to boarding homes as an example, we work very closely with Health Canada through NIHB. That is where the funding comes from and we provide that service on behalf of them through contracts that we get with institutions and partners.

That is a very active and ongoing file with regard to the boarding home in Rankin Inlet. Like I had mentioned with the mental health facility in Rankin Inlet, there was a lot of discussion in the last Assembly on infrastructure that was there already being converted at the time. It was decided that it was a lot more cost effective to actually build a new facility, so that is on the planning block.

When it comes to dollars committed from the federal government specifically to those projects, just the feasibility study on the addictions and treatment facility has been committed to, but there is a lot of dialogue going on right now. I can assure all members, especially the member from Amittuq, that I am looking forward to some positive developments in the near future on a number of those files. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 266 – 5(2): The Need for a Mental Health Facility

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Uqhuqturmiut. If my grandchildren are watching, two more

sleeps.

>> *Laughter*

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister and my colleagues will be aware, I am committed to addressing the ongoing need for mental health services across our territory. Over the course of several years and a number of capital budgets, the plans for establishing a mental health facility have not produced anything concrete. However, the need is no less urgent now than it was a few years ago.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify whether he and his officials have given any further consideration to my suggestion of establishing a mental health facility in Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the member's dogged arguments in promoting the facility in his community. It is something that, whenever we are talking about mental health across the territory, as I'm sure we will be talking a little bit later when I am sitting over at the witness table defending the need for more money, we are working to provide more services in the territory through different practices in the community and in the regions, whether that be PYs or resources that way or facilities. We are exploring a number of different options. I can't commit to a facility in Gjoa Haven at this time, but there are a number of

different options that we are exploring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that plans to establish a mental health facility in the community of Rankin Inlet has been under consideration for some time. However, there has been no real progress to date.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why his department continues to push for a project which is not progressing when there is a potential for a perfectly good alternative in another location? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we looked at the project in Rankin Inlet, it was to replace an existing project. There was mental health work that was being done there. When a piece of infrastructure was evaluated to bring it up to today's standards, it was identified that it was more cost effective to replace that piece of infrastructure. It's not a matter of creating a new facility in a community; it's replacing an existing one.

There are still some programs that run out of that facility on day programs, but I do, again, like I had mentioned earlier, applaud the member's doggedness in promoting such a facility in his community and I'm sure all members would appreciate added investments in the mental health capacity across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll keep trying.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there is a benefit to establishing a territorial facility in a regional centre which is a transportation hub. However, I think it would be worthwhile considering the other benefits of placing such facilities in communities which can offer a different environment.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Akoak: Look at Nunavut Arctic College's Piquisilirivvik which focuses on teaching cultural knowledge in a small community with a strong cultural tradition and that is distant from the busy, urbanized regional centres. In a similar way, a mental health facility located in a smaller community would give its clients the opportunity to reflect and heal, away from the distraction and temptations of a large regional centre.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to re-evaluating the benefits of establishing a mental health centre in a community that is not a regional centre like Gjoa Haven? A visual thumbs up and a verbal yes would be sufficient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would love to, but

unfortunately...well, not unfortunately. I think it's worth mentioning that when we're looking at dealing with different mental health issues, suicide prevention initiatives, I think it's very important to address that we've got a number of different pillars that we're focusing on, one of them being a large-scale facility itself.

I think at the root of it, within the other pillars, there's one that is workforce development, specifically for Inuit people to assist and to work within the delivery field, targeting different community-based initiatives. We've got on-the-land programs. We've got the Cambridge mobile addictions counselling that's going on there. The focus that we're looking at is obviously looking at a stand-alone facility to address territorial needs.

One of the main focuses that I think goes unnoticed or under-recognized is the initiatives in the communities, that we're looking at building capacity in the communities so that they can deal with a number of the different elements before somebody reaches a point where they actually have to go to a larger scale facility, such as what we're sending people out of territory right now. There are addictions counsellors in the communities. There are mental health workers in the communities. It's a matter of maximizing the effectiveness and the outcomes of those directions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired and therefore we will proceed. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions.

Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

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

Committee Report 005 – 5(2): Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 12 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) so that Bill 12 can immediately be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Committee Report 006 – 5(2): Presentation of the Report of the Standing Committee on the Review of the 2016-2017 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to present the *Report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the Review of the 2016-2017 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board*.

On June 14 of 2018 the 2016-17 *Annual Report of the Legal Services Board of Nunavut* was formally tabled in the House by the Minister of Justice.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a hearing on the report from October 1 to 2, 2018. The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

The standing committee notes its appreciation to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board and her colleagues and staff for their attendance as witnesses during the hearing.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains 15 formal recommendations. The major thematic areas that these recommendations address include:

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 6 – 5(2).

- The Legal Services Board's annual reporting and business planning requirements;
- The Legal Services Board's organizational structure and staffing;
- The Legal Services Board's policies;
- Amendments to the *Legal Services Act* and the *Legal Services Regulations*;
- Oversight of policing in Nunavut;
- Federal funding for legal aid in Nunavut under the Canada-Nunavut Access to Justice Services Agreement; and
- Coordination of public legal education programs and initiatives in Nunavut.

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

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member has moved a motion that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Minister Akeegok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 089 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Nunavut Development Corporation Annual Report

Tabled Document 090 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Annual Report

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling two reports. The first report I will be tabling is the *2017-18 Annual Report for the Nunavut Development Corporation*.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also tabling the *2017-18 Annual Report for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction, Minister Sheutiapik.

Tabled Document 091 – 5(2): Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Spring 2018 Territorial Gathering, April 17 to 19, 2018, Rankin Inlet

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am tabling the *Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Spring 2018 Territorial Gathering Summary Report* in Rankin Inlet, April 17 to 19 of 2018.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Hickes.

**Tabled Document 092 – 5(2): 2015
Annual Report for the Workers'
Safety and Compensation Appeals
Tribunal**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm tabling the 2015 *Annual Report for the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 093 – 5(2): 2017-
2018 Qulliq Energy Corporation
Annual Report**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am tabling the 2017-18 *Qulliq Energy Corporation Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 094 – 5(2): Nunavut
Emergency Management Annual
Report 2016**

**Tabled Document 095 – 5(2): Nunavut
Emergency Management Annual
Report 2017**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to table two reports. The first one is the *Nunavut Emergency Management Annual Report 2016*, and the other one is the *Nunavut Emergency Management Annual Report 2017*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Tabled Document 096 – 5(2):
Resolutions Adopted at the 2018
Annual General Meeting of the
Kitikmeot Inuit Association**

**Tabled Document 097 – 5(2): Letter
from Hamlet of Gjoa Haven
Regarding Need for Mental Health
and Addictions Centre**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table.

Mr. Speaker, in October of this year the Kitikmeot Inuit Association held its 2018 annual general meeting, and I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the association's leadership for their hard work in advancing the interests of our region.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to table today a number of formal resolutions that were adopted at the annual general meeting, all of which I encourage members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The second document, today I wish to table a letter from the Mayor of the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven regarding the need for a mental health and addictions centre in the community.

Mr. Speaker, this is the second letter the mayor has written to the Government of Nunavut on this issue. The last letter from February 12, 2018 still has not been responded to.

Mr. Speaker, there is a very strong argument that mental health and addictions issues are the root of many of the social problems that plague our community. We desperately need services to address those root problems. I encourage my colleagues to read this letter with care. I strongly encourage the government to respond to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 098 – 5(2): 2019
Sitting Calendar of the Legislative
Assembly of Nunavut**

Thank you, my colleagues. I have one document to table today.

As required by Rule 3(2), I wish to table the 2019 *Sitting Calendar for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*. Thank you.

Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 2, 10, 11, and 12 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 14 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to the Committee of

the Whole, we will now take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:29 and
Committee resumed at 15:55*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2, 10, and 11. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to proceed with Bill 10 and the supporting document, followed by Bill 11 and the supporting document, followed by Bill 2. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 10?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 10 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
2, 2018-2019 – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. Just to remind members, you should have a package in front of you with the bills and the first one is the supplementary appropriation capital. I would like to ask Minister Hickey: do you have witnesses that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Hickey.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to let the witnesses enter the Chamber?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickes, if you could please introduce your witnesses and then carry on to your opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, your left, I have Deputy Minister of Finance Jeff Chown and to my left and to your right, Mr. Chairman, I have Deputy Minister of Health in her final appearance before Committee of the Whole, Colleen Stockley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. If you could please proceed with your opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I appear before you today to present Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019*.

Bill 10 is a supplementary appropriation for 2018-19 capital totalling \$896,000. It is an adjustment to the 2018-19 capital carryover amounts which were approved in the House in June of 2018.

Mr. Chairman and members, when we approved capital carryovers in June, the amounts were based on projections and

accruals. Since then late invoices have been paid and various accounting adjusting entries have been made. The final adjustments show that we need to carry over an additional \$896,000 for various capital projects. The approval of these additional carryovers is technical in nature. These projects are mostly ongoing and Bill 10 ensures their continuation.

Mr. Chairman and members, the objective of this set of carryovers is either to increase or decrease the carryover funds for identified projects. If this is not done, some of the funding will lapse and the projects will either be dropped or possibly be included in a future capital plan. It is important to note that we are not asking for new funding for these additional carryover projects, rather we are seeking approval to move the remaining unspent existing funding from 2017-18 to 2018-19 and in some cases decrease funding for the already approved carryover projects. There are a total of 20 projects in this adjusted carryover request.

Mr. Chairman and members, the total adjusted carryovers are broken down as follows:

- \$476,000 in four projects for the Department of Finance in support of Nunavut Arctic College operations, including the community learning centre here in Iqaluit, a student records system, the Kivalliq Hall air handling, and Rankin Inlet student family housing projects;
- \$829,000 in eight projects for the Department of Education, which includes the following projects:
 - Reduction in carryover funding

- to ongoing lifecycle repairs in Kugaaruk new school; and
- Increase in carryover funding to Igloodik new high school, Sanikiluaq Nuiyak generator, the Kivalliq school oil tanks, Taloyoak Netsilik generator, Kugaaruk modular classrooms, and Clyde River Quluaq door projects;
- An additional reduction of \$703,000 in three projects for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for the following projects:
 - Iqaluit International Airport improvement;
 - The air terminal building in Taloyoak;
 - Pond Inlet marine infrastructure projects; and
- \$294,000 in five projects for the Department of Community and Government Services covering a reduction in carryover funding to the Gjoa Haven hamlet office building project, an increase in carryover funding to the Gjoa Haven warehouse, Gjoa Haven maintenance shop upgrade, preplanning studies, and Hall Beach sewage lagoon projects.

Mr. Chairman and members, I will now take any questions regarding these capital carryovers. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Do any members have general comments? If not, again, the documents were provided to you earlier and we're on Bill 10, supplementary appropriation capital. I will ask members to please turn to page 4. Supplementary Appropriation.

Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Current Administered Funds. \$476,000. Are there any questions? Total Department. \$476,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turn to page 5. Government of Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation. Education. Not Previously Authorized. Total Corporate Services. \$829,000. Agreed? Total Department. \$829,000. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just have one question regarding this project on page 5, Kivalliq school oil tanks. I'm not sure if it's a question that the minister would be able to answer or not. Can you just confirm: are these double-walled oil tanks that are being installed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. It's my understanding that any oil tanks that are installed these days have to be double-walled. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: That was my impression as well, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main, no? You're okay. Thank you. Any other questions? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question to the minister, the Kivalliq school oil tank, what's the lifespan of these oil tanks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. It's also my understanding they are

supposed to be good for 20 years, but Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: I think we should switch places, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

That is my understanding as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Any other questions that I can answer?

>> *Laughter*

We are on Education. Total Department. \$829,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Thank you. Turning to page 6. Community and Government Services. Not Previously Authorized. Total Local Government Services. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have a question regarding this carryover amount for preplanning studies. We've had some discussions on this line item in the past and there seems to be a lot of money sloshing around within that preplanning studies line item.

I would just like to get a little bit more information regarding the amount of \$158,000 and what the consequences would be if this amount were not approved considering the fact, as I mentioned, there does seem to be quite a lot of wiggle room within that preplanning study line item. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money is to carry over for preplanning studies that are ongoing already. As the member has mentioned and it has been raised here in the House, there has been some concern in the past on the carryover amounts for the preplanning studies. The reasoning behind that that has been raised also in the past is that as projects mature, when we are looking at a number of different initiatives, priorities from departmental needs, CGS uses these preplanning dollars to bring a narrower scope to the project so that there are some accurate numbers as they are brought forward through the capital planning process.

There have been, I believe, some descriptors in the past on capacity from the number of preplanning studies ongoing at one time. I am under the impression that there has been some advancement in that area within the community and government services department to meet the needs of these preplanning studies. That's just simply a carryover of existing preplanning studies that are currently ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get a clarification on how the sewage lagoon (gas tax) and in the briefing note it says computer hardware and software. I have never known a sewage lagoon to have computer software and hardware. What does...? I am puzzled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just getting some details that I will put in front of me momentarily.

I'm just wondering if maybe it might be best to get that level of detail from the Minister of Community and Government Services. I'm not aware of what type of technology is needed for monitoring sewage lagoons. Maybe the Minister of CGS would be able to respond with more detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Is the Minister of Community and Government Services prepared to answer the question? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will attempt to, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question.

Mr. Chairman, digital and electronics and computers are being used more and more extensively. Having a sewage lagoon is a little bit more sophisticated now than digging a hole in the ground and using it that way. They try to monitor fluids going in and out and ensure that the sewage lagoon is doing what it is set out to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Minister Hickes, do you want to add to that? Please go ahead.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just under the descriptor in the briefing note that the member has, it has the number of different categories.

Under the computer hardware and software is a zero amount. It just has it as a category. The only set, the \$72,000, is just under the tangible assets line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for recognizing me again. Coming back to the preplanning studies item, this carryover being requested here is \$158,000. We also just went through a capital estimates review where \$1.5 million was allocated to the same department for preplanning studies. Am I correct in understanding that \$1.5 million is the amount per year that the Department of CGS spends on preplanning studies?

I would just like a little bit more clarity in terms of the amounts that are already within the department and we are adding more money on top of it and we are also carrying over money. I would just like a bit more of an explanation there on what the situation is. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We carried over an amount in the last budget cycle in June and it's basically some additional projects that were under that scope. The projects are being worked on now.

With regard to the \$1.5 million budget allocated to preplanning studies, there's a number of different variables. The list that I believe we were provided in June

on what projects were anticipated was part of the preplanning studies. Some were more expensive than others; some were more extensive than others. When you're doing a preplanning study on a sewage lagoon or airport terminal, it is a little bit different than doing preplanning on an addictions treatment centre or a health centre. There are different cost factors that vary from project to project which would be a little bit more of a variable for those projects. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister, for that explanation. I guess what it comes back to is kind of the principle or the idea of budgeting. My rudimentary understanding is that the budgets are prepared for the upcoming year. I know that this is an established practice of carrying over and carrying over of the funds. I know that it has been discussed quite a bit in the House in the past.

I'm just wondering: are there any plans to change this process to tighten up the finances under this preplanning study item? We know that funds are short. I know it's only \$158,000, but we keep on hearing the message that yes, we do need to be prudent, we do need to save money, and we don't have enough money for this or that.

I guess my follow-up question is: if this \$158,000 was not to be approved, would that mean that CGS does not have enough money in the preplanning study line item already to allocate to these projects? Am I correct in my interpretation here? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically yes, those projects would either potentially drop off the paper or other projects would have to get dropped off the feasibility or preplanning studies to make up the difference for the projects that are ongoing.

I do want to take a moment. This is a fairly new exercise in the last few years of doing these preplanning studies and the whole intent of them is to actually increase the amount of accountability and fiscal responsibility for projects. In the past we typically had projects coming forward with basically a class X estimate and too many times we ran into challenges when those numbers became more focused and a little bit more when the professionals got involved of actually analyzing the cost for a project.

The whole purpose of these preplanning study dollars is actually to save money down the road, that we have a more accurate costing methodology and a scope of project before it actually gets onto the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. We are on Community and Government Services. Total Department. \$294,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Going to page 7. Economic Development and Transportation. Not Previously

Authorized. Total Transportation. - \$703,000. Are there any questions? Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just regarding the Iqaluit airport improvement project that's half a million dollar amount there, I need further information. I'm interested to see if I interpret this correctly. We're actually reducing our expenditures there, which is good news. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, anytime we decrease the amount of carryover that we need as a result of any invoicing or any accruals from the project is good news in my opinion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Any other questions? No? We're okay? Okay. We are on Economic Development and Transportation. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. - \$703,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page 2. Government of Nunavut. Supplementary Appropriation, Capital, No. 2, 2018-19. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$896,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Could I ask members to please go to Bill 10 in your legislative binder? It's the white binder that is down below your desk and it's on

tab 10. Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2019. Vote 2: Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$896,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 10 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members

agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 10 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 11 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2017-
2018 – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. We will now move on to Bill 11. I will ask the minister: Minister Hickes, do you have any opening comments? If you do, please go ahead.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I appear before you today to present Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018, No. 4*. Through this bill, the government is seeking to increase its overall 2017-18 operations and maintenance appropriation by \$11,318,000.

The Department of Finance is nearing completion of the 2017-18 Public Accounts, which I expect to table during this sitting of the Legislative Assembly. In finalizing our financial results, it has been identified that the Department of Health has exceeded its budget and thus requires a supplementary appropriation to cover the budgetary shortfall in the Health Care Delivery Branch.

Mr. Chairman, as Minister of both Finance and Health, I am concerned about the continued rapid growth in health care expenditures and our difficulty in accurately forecasting them.

The areas of over-expenditure facing us are not new to Members of the Assembly, and we continue to see growth in areas such as medical travel and out-of-territory hospitals. Expenditures in these areas are demand-driven and difficult to forecast because of the significant amount of time other jurisdictions have to bill us for services provided.

In previous years much of our supplementary appropriations for Health were the result of systemic underfunding in these budget areas. As a government, we attempted to address this through significant increases in the 2018-19 budget for the Department of Health. Unfortunately I am here today to inform you now that early indications are for continued growth in these program areas and Health is already indicating that supplementary funding will likely be required before the end of this year. I expect we will have more details for you in the winter sitting.

The growth in the last two years has been significantly higher than we have ever seen in previous years and at this point we are unable to determine if this growth rate will continue or settle back to historic levels. Although much of this expenditure growth is beyond our control, I believe there are areas where we can improve our operations that will result in cost savings. In addition, we need to find ways to improve our data-gathering to assist us with our budget forecasting models.

Mr. Chairman and members, improved data collection is also the key to identifying areas where we can target preventative health care initiatives that in the long term should result in a

healthier population, which in turn will result in cost savings to the health care system.

I am committed to working with my departments to make forward strides on these issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Are there any general comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister saying that the Department of Health's budget is worrisome. It helps the people of Nunavut. The money is probably well spent and they have a very important department, but we have to look at our money as a government and we never have enough.

(interpretation ends) I agree with the minister's statement in terms of the potential for data to assist in better budgeting and I think it's something that we really need to move on in order to provide better services for Nunavummiut. We need to know where people are sick and what types of treatments they're using. I believe that's something that's worldwide.

The use of data or artificial intelligence in health care is the leading edge. If it would help us to budget better and deliver better services, then I look forward to the day when we can better track our health care data for the betterment of the territory.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.

Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The physician contracts are included in the \$25.6 million and they're adding \$2.3 million to it, but the actuals are \$26.9 million. We spend a lot of money on expensive doctors in Nunavut.

If the Inuit can get diagnosed properly right away, then they won't have to make so many return trips to the health centre. They go to the health centre so many times and only when they finally get sent to Winnipeg or somewhere, they get diagnosed.

I would like to find out: when we are using so much money for Nunavut doctors, are doctors brought to the north or do we have resident doctors who live in the north in our communities or do these doctors just go back to their home? This touches on operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page 4. Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance, No. 4, 2017-18. Health. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Health Care Service Delivery. \$11,318,000. Any questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the Department of Health's historical actuals, it seems that the last two fiscal years that we have in the Public Accounts 2016-17 and 2015-16 had shown a substantial increase from one year to the next, but at that time the most recent public accounts, the Department of Health only had actuals of \$366 million. When I say only \$366

million, I don't actually mean that. That's a considerable amount of dollars. With the current supplementary appropriation of \$11 million on top of the current budget of \$402 million, that's a substantial increase of over \$50 million in actual spending from one year to the next.

In the briefing notes that you provide us, you have outlined a number of program areas that contribute to the request for additional funds. I do understand that a lot of these items are variables such as medical travel and out-of-territory costs, but for the benefit of the members here today and the public listening, would you provide a little bit more detail to the \$50 million increase in actuals from one year to the next? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had mentioned in my opening comments, and I know the member is looking for some specific items and I don't have that level of information in front of me right now. We are here to deal with the supplementary appropriation. That's something I can have a discussion with the member after on specific areas with regard to the actuals, but there are some cost drivers in ways we haven't seen before and how fast they're accelerating.

I just recall from a couple of years ago, we went from just over \$50 million range to well over \$60 million just on medical travel alone in one year, which is like a 20 percent increase, which is quite unprecedented. It has been increasing ever since to the point now

where we are upwards of \$90 million for medical travel.

I have often used the term with a lot of my colleagues here that I get notifications and requests to reconsider an appeal for escort travel or different services to be able to be provided, and then I come in here and I have to defend on going over. It's a double-edged sword. Whenever we are trying to provide services to Nunavummiut that they deserve, it's going to drive up costs.

We have room to go, but we are doing better in areas of cancer detection. We are catching it earlier, so we are sending people out more often to actually be able to fight the disease off versus waiting or finding out too late in the factor. The increase is putting a lot of strain on our services, even with Health Canada announcing through NIHB on coverage of maternal escort travel. It's a covered cost, but it still puts additional strain on our services, which drives up cost and overtime and things like that. I appreciate what the member is trying to get to and I just don't have that level of information on all the areas where that increase has come from.

I do want to make one final stressor that when we're looking at health care delivery across Canada, I believe it's around 24 or 23 percent of our budget from the territory goes to health care. In most jurisdictions it's...sorry, 40 percent. In most jurisdictions it's the 50 to 60 percent range, but they don't have the cost drivers such as public housing, as an example, where most jurisdictions provide less than 1 percent of their budget on housing where ours is substantially more than that.

We have been making some adjustments to the budgeting process and have been increasing Health's budget, such as we did last year, and we are looking forward to working together with everyone and all available options to continue and improve the health care delivery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at prior year actuals with the Department of Health under compensation and benefits, the Department of Health has managed to stay within the original budget. In 2015-16 the Department of Health had \$119 million in salary dollars. Looking at 2016-17, the department had \$126 million. Once again, in both years the department was able to stay within budget for the salary dollars.

Now, looking at the current year's salary dollars of \$150 million, would you be able to explain how the department was able to stay within its means with regard to salaries in prior years but saw a substantial increase in the current year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I almost want to say that that statistic is a little misleading in the way that with the capacity issues that we inherently have across the Department of Health, the number of vacant positions, the fact that we do have to bring in contractors, agency nurses, and that type of thing increases our costs than what it would for an indeterminate position.

The only way we're keeping our nose above the water or keeping it at what appears to be fiscally responsible of meeting our needs, it's done through lack of positions being filled. There are going to be continued pressures. We have had positions in the mental health field, nurse practitioners in communities that, as we fill those positions, it will put a strain on our compensation and benefits category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickey. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Next I would like to refer to a news article that was published by APTN this summer and it was regarding bonuses paid out to senior management within the Government of Nunavut. In that report it identifies that \$127,000 was paid to bonuses to senior management within the Department of Health.

Now, it's my understanding that there are multiple criteria to determine the amount of bonuses that are paid out, but would the minister be able to confirm that there are financial criteria included in the calculation of the senior management bonuses? It's going to lead into my next question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies for the delay; I was just confirming something with my deputy minister.

If I understood the question properly, the member is asking if a financial

performance of a senior manager within the department has an impact on their performance bonus. Can I get a confirmation, please?

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone, if you could clarify your question, please.

Mr. Lightstone: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to find out if their financial performance, and what I mean by that is the final outcome of the budget that those senior managers are provided, has any role to play in deciding on how much bonus they receive at the end of the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A simple answer is possibly. It's a performance bonus measurement on a number of different factors depending upon the reasoning of how they managed to stay within their budgetary constraints. It could have a bearing on their performance ability to run that division, so possibly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. I would like to remind Mr. Lightstone that we're here to talk about the health care delivery, not the administrative side of things when it comes to performance bonuses and whatnot. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, the reason I was asking the question was considering that the Department of Health seems to struggle with cost overruns annually, I was curious if this current supplementary appropriation would have any impact on

the department's current or previous or upcoming bonuses that will be or have been paid out to senior managers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the reasoning behind these carryovers is demand-driven services provided, I can't see it having any bearing on any type of bonus implication. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the briefing notes that were provided to the members, there were a number of programs that have a budget shortfall, meaning their actuals are larger than the budgets, but there are also areas or programs that have budget surpluses that contribute to countering the deficit. The briefing note only indicates that there are four program areas that had a surplus in the 2017-18 fiscal year. Can the minister confirm that those are the only programs that actually had a surplus in that fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, these are the program areas where there was any differentiation from the budget. Yes, these are the ones that are listed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize with the minister's comments that their data-gathering has to be improved with the budget forecasting models, but looking at this physician services contract, there's a shortfall of \$1.3 million. I would like to know whether that's covering specialists that the GN has not contracted out and in what area. Is it mental health? Is it a new type of illness? What type of shortfall happened here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question, Ms. Towtongie. The main driver behind the increase in the physician services is we have been working very hard to meet the demand in the communities for physician day visits. Where demand has increased, we have been sending physicians in for longer periods of time, in some cases more frequently. They might get two visits in a month instead of once a month. We're working very strongly with the health centres to follow the demand for physician visits.

I used an example in the House here recently of a surgical visit to one of the communities where there were 35 people on the wait-list for surgery consultations. We sent the surgeon there instead of sending them all down here to see the surgeon. He went up there, saw everyone in, I believe, a five-day period, and we only had to send five of those people down for surgery. We're looking at finding more efficiency in these practices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes.

Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe you knew I had a question. Even before I had my hand up, you looked at me. Thank you.

In regard to the physician services, there's an over-expenditure of \$1.3 million. I believe there are more physicians providing more services in Nunavut. I'm very happy about it if that's a fact. What kind of policy does the Department of Health use? (interpretation ends) What is the guideline that the department uses in terms of how many days a month Nunavut residents should have access to a physician? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not set in stone, but the guideline that we work to follow is five days in the community for every 1,000 people in the population. In most cases we're exceeding that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. It's good to hear that the department is exceeding that, but my understanding is that that guideline, compared to the access to physicians in southern Canada, is quite a low amount of physician availability. Does the department have any plans to keep "pushing the envelope" in terms of the number of days a month that they allocate to each Nunavut resident or

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Short answer, yes and we have been increasing service days over the last number of years. I've got data going back from the 2003-04 fiscal year that there were under 2,300 service days in total. Now we're nearing 7,600 service days in the last fiscal year. Those numbers have been increasing steadily, some of it due to population growth. A lot of it is due more, in my opinion, better communication with the health centres in the communities to keep track of the wait-list so that when we do get physicians visiting the community, it's more efficient.

I can't emphasize enough on the importance of people following through with their appointments when physicians are in the community. That is one of the inefficiencies that we have been struggling with. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. Just one more question on this physician services contract, has the department looked at or considered things that would increase the efficiency of how these services are delivered? Would there be any cost savings if we could convince physicians to come up and actually live in a community, targeting physicians with families, building houses for physicians to entice them to live in a community

that they work in?

I realize we're looking at the past fiscal year, Mr. Chairman, and if you will allow me, I'm trying to look forward to the next fiscal year and understand how we could better deliver physician services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the forward-thinking of the member.

It has been brought up a number of times of providing physicians at the community level on a full-time basis. There are challenges with that. We're still struggling to meet our capacity overall, I think, depending on the size of the community on how much work there is to make sure that it's efficient. When we've got a doctor who is going into a community for a five- or ten- or two-week period, they're working every day very diligently to make sure that those appointments or demands are being met.

I think it would be a little challenging in a lot of communities to have a full-time doctor. It is something that has been brought up in the past. We have talked about having a doctor rotating through communities or something of that nature, but right now I feel we're doing a pretty job of meeting the needs in one of the ways of having the approval of the nurse practitioner positions that we approved a couple of years ago where a nurse practitioner can provide approximately 70 percent of the service a physician can.

We've had some challenges with the

recruitment side of that and it is something that I am focusing on with the department officials, but I'm optimistic that that program will make a significant impact on the care at the community level. We're always going to be exploring different ways to keep physicians in the territory on an indeterminate contract type basis. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That nurse practitioner item is definitely worth further discussion at some point.

When it comes to this other line item here, which is over budget, out-of-territory hospital and physicians treatment, I'm curious about the situation in Manitoba because there have been cuts made to the health care system down there in the tens of millions of dollars, I believe, in this budget period. I know that we're charged a reciprocal rate by the jurisdiction, Manitoba in this case.

When it comes to Manitoba and the cuts they're making to their system, has that had any effect on the rates that we are being charged and/or the services provided to Nunavummiut from the Kivalliq mainly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very fair question to ask. I believe they cut \$30 million from their budget just in the very recent past.

We're still evaluating. It doesn't increase any of the costs on the services being provided. It's yet to be determined whether there will be any impact on the level of service being provided. I just spoke to my staff yesterday about arranging a call or a meeting with the Manitoba minister of health to go over a number of different initiatives and this would be one of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I encourage the minister to strongly continue in that vein because it's very concerning for me. We very much rely on the services out of Manitoba and if those services are getting cut or if they become a poorer quality, then I think we should seriously look at sending our patients to a different jurisdiction where they can get a better quality of service. That's a hypothetical, but I'll leave that alone.

My last question is on the TB screening clinic item here. There was a difference between what was budgeted and what was spent. For the ongoing screening clinic in Whale Cove, is it anticipated that it would be a similar amount allocated in terms of the expenses? That's my last question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Qikiqtarjuaq was the first time we did something like this, it was very difficult to gauge a budget

allocation, so we allocated the \$1.5 million to it, of which we found we only needed \$900,000 of it. We only budgeted \$1 million for the Whale Cove community screening, so I feel that will be closer to the actual. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. We are on Health. Operations and Maintenance. Health Care Service Delivery. Total Department. \$11,318,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page 2 of the bill. Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance, No. 4, 2017-2018. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$11,318,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to Bill 11 in your white binder.

We're on Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending

March 31, 2018. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. \$11,318,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Bill 11?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 11 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will now move on to Bill 2. I will ask that... . Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to exchange one of my witnesses and thank Ms. Stockley for the outstanding work that she has provided in supporting me today. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort out the witness. Does the committee agree to bring in a different witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Bill 02 – Chartered Professional Accountants Act – Consideration in Committee

Thank you. Minister Hickes, if you could please again introduce your witnesses and then proceed on to your opening comments on Bill 2. Thank you.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't change my one to the right, so Deputy Minister Jeff Chown, but I would also like to introduce at this time Erin George, the legislative specialist, I guess is your title. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move right into my opening comments.

I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole today to answer any questions that my colleagues may have on Bill 2, *Chartered Professional Accountants Act*.

Mr. Chairman and members, the *Chartered Professional Accountants Act* together with its parallel statute in the Northwest Territories, Bill 7, establishes one professional body which will be responsible for regulating the entire profession of accounting in both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

Bill 2 merges the existing professions of

certified general accountant, certified management accountant, and chartered accountant into a single profession and repeals the statutes governing those formerly separate professional bodies.

Mr. Chairman and members, this is an important bill for our territory as it will bring Nunavut and the Northwest Territories in line with the national standard and with all other jurisdictions in Canada that have already enacted legislation in support of the chartered professional accountant profession and designation.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is the culmination of years of work and engagement, as three separate organizations negotiated a merger to create one coherent association titled "Chartered Professional Accounts of the Northwest Territories/Nunavut." This new organization, which will ensure consistent standards across the accounting profession, requires its own legislation to allow it to be self-regulating and to allow for a single professional accounting designation of chartered professional accountant.

Mr. Chairman, key components of the bill set out the rules and powers of the new organization, including:

- the power of the organization to manage its affairs, including the power to hold property, borrow money, make by-laws, and elect its governing board;
- the rules respecting the practice of the profession and reserving the chartered professional accountant designation to members of the organization;

- the rules respecting the membership and licensing of members of the organization;
- the power of the organization to establish requirements for members, including ethical and professional standards of conduct and continuing competency requirements;
- the rules respecting the making and investigation of complaints against members and the conduct of discipline proceedings, including appeals;
- provisions for the organization to exercise powers and functions for the regulation of the profession in Nunavut;
- provisions for transitional measures, including preserving registrations affected and proceedings initiated under the former governing statutes.

Mr. Chairman, I am confident that this bill will bring positive and important change, creating a standard and supportive structure for chartered professional accountants, especially new graduates, who will help improve the human resource capacity of the government, support Nunavut's business community, and contribute positively to the economic development of the territory.

Mr. Chairman and members, I am pleased to have this opportunity to answer any questions you may have regarding this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. We're on Bill 2, which is *Chartered*

Professional Accountants Act. Are there any general comments? Go ahead, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 2, the proposed new *Chartered Professional Accountants Act*.

The standing committee is in support of the principle and objectives of the bill, which the sponsoring minister outlined in his opening comments.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the members of the Transition Steering Committee of the Governing Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, who took the time to provide a thoughtful submission to the standing committee in support of the bill.

I also wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our counterparts in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, who recently concluded their consideration of that jurisdiction's version of the bill. During our standing committees' consideration of our respective bills, a number of technical legal issues were identified. These issues were ultimately resolved through the approval of a number of amendments during the standing committee's clause-by-clause consideration of the bill. The two standing committees worked closely together in developing the amendments and I also wish to acknowledge the sponsoring ministers for the collaborative manner in which they

worked with the standing committees.

I also wish to note that the standing committee looks forward to a similarly cooperative approach during its upcoming consideration of Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, which was recently introduced in the Legislative Assembly. As members are aware, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is shared between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, and both legislatures are currently considering similar bills.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 2 to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Any other general comments? We are on Bill 2, which is in the white binder under tab 2. *Chartered Professional Accountants Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 42. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 43. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 44. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 45. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 46. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 47. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 48. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 49. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 50. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 51. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 52. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 53. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 54. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: You're halfway. Clause 55. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 56. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 57. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 58. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 59. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 60. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 61. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 62. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 63. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 64. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 65. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 66. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 67. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 68. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 69. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 70. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 71. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 72. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 73. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 74. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 75. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 76. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 77. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 78. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 79. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 80. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 81. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 82. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 83. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 84. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 85. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 86. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 87. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 88. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 89. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 90. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 91. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 92. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 93. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 94. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 95. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 96. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 97. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 98. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 99. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 100. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 101. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 102. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 103. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you.

>>Applause

Chairman: Do members agree that concludes Bill 2 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 2 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickey, do you have any closing comments?
Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I'll make it very brief. I appreciate the questions on the appropriations that we accomplished

earlier through Bills 10 and 11, and I appreciate everyone's support of putting Bill 2 through to modernize our legislation for accounting across the territory.

I would like to thank the Deputy Minister from Finance, Mr. Chown, for assisting me through the three bills, as well as to Ms. George to assist behind the scenes of all the very good work. The public out there might be thinking that we're just agreeing to every item as it goes through, but I can assure members that there was a lot of work put in behind the scenes to get this bill to this point to pass with all the diligence and due diligence that I did receive.

I would like to thank the committee and the Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Sorry, Mr. Hickes, but there seems to be a little hiccup in the bill and we need to take a five-minute break and make sure we got it in order, so we will take a five-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:05 and resumed at 17:15

Chairman: Good afternoon, members. I will call the meeting back to order. Sorry for the delay, but there was an error concerning Bill 2 and there's a requirement to do a clause-by-clause of Bill 2 as it's reprinted. We will start the process again beginning with clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 42. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 43. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 44. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 45. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 46. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 47. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 48. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 49. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 50. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 51. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 52. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 53. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 54. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 55. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 56. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 57. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 58. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 59. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 60. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 61. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 62. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 63. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 64. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 65. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 66. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 67. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 68. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 69. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 70. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 71. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 72. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 73. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 74. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 75. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 76. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 77. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 78. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 79. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 80. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 81. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 82. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 86. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 87. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 88. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 89. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 90. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 91. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 92. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 93. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 94. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 95. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 96. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 97. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 98. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: Order, please. Clause 99. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 100. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 101. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 102. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 103. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 2 as reprinted?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, as per Rule 62(2), that Bill 2, as reprinted, can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes, you did closing comments, so we will all skip that part again.

>>*Laughter*

Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the witnesses out, please. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Thank you. Opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Moving on with the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2, as reprinted, Bill 10, and Bill 11 and would like to report that Bill 2, as reprinted, and Bills 10 and 11 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 02 – Chartered Professional Accountants Act – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 2, *Chartered Professional Accountants Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>Applause

As the motion is carried, Bill 2 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>Applause

The motion is carried and Bill 10 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018*, be read for the third time. 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. Thank you. The motion is carried and Bill 11 is now ready for assent.

>>Applause

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 November 8:

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
 - Bill 12
20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

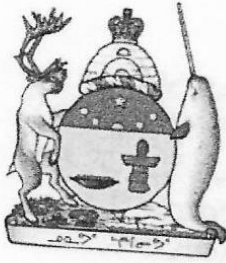
>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned until
Thursday, November 8, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:29*

Appendix – November 7, 2018



ᓄᓇᓂᓪ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ
Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

Return to Oral Question

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

Asked of: Jeannie Ehaloak, Minister of Environment

Number: 186-5(2)

Date: October 25, 2018

Subject: Wildlife Damage Prevention Program

Question:

I wonder if the minister could explain why this relatively small program has such a large footprint when it comes to the number of different application forms that people are supposed to fill out.

Response:

The Wildlife Damage Prevention Program was one of the first "made in Nunavut" funding programs and was created in 2012 after consultation with hunters and trappers organizations and harvesters across the territory. This program has been well-received and has seen continued uptake since being launched.

The department had a review of its harvester support programs completed by Aarluk Consulting in April 2015. This highly in-depth review led to streamlining and re-profiling existing programs to better align with the department's mandate.

I would like to clarify that there is only one application form but there are several avenues that the application can be filed under, as indicated in the program guide. These avenues are 001 Wildlife Detection System, 002 Portable Electric Fence, 003 Semi-Permanent Electric Fence, 004 Bear Resistant Containers, 005 Wildlife Deterrents, 006 Cache Protection, 007 Existing Structure Reinforcement and 008 Other Projects.

In the program guide, we provide instructions for applicants to help guide them through the application process. Our conservation officers will gladly discuss and help people complete the application to ensure they are applying under the appropriate funding program. Environment staff is currently reviewing the program's application process to see where any efficiency can be found.

Thank you.



ᓄᓇᓂᓪ ᓄᓇᓂᓪᓂᓪᓂᓪ
Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

Return to Oral Question

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

Asked of: Jeannie Ehaloak, Minister of Environment

Number: 195-5(2)

Date: October 26, 2018

Subject: Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds

Question:

In the event that the barren ground caribou are listed as threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*, what will this mean for caribou hunters across Nunavut?

Response:

The federal government is currently still in the consultation process seeking input on the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) listing recommendation. If the federal government decides to proceed to list the species under the *Species at Risk Act*, the recommendation will have to go through the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board decision making process.

Under the federal *Species at Risk Act*:

32 (1) No person shall kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual of a wildlife species that is listed as an extirpated species, an endangered species or a threatened species.

Damage or destruction of residence

33 No person shall damage or destroy the residence of one or more individuals of a wildlife species that is listed as an endangered species or a threatened species, or that is listed as an extirpated species if a recovery strategy has recommended the reintroduction of the species into the wild in Canada.

Application — certain species in territories

35 (1) Sections 32 and 33 apply in each of the territories in respect of a listed wildlife species only to the extent that the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister, makes an order providing that they, or any of them, apply.

In summary, no a listing of caribou under *Species at Risk Act* will not result in automatic harvest restrictions as the territories are exempt from sections 32 and 33 unless the federal minister issues an order. An order will only be issued if the federal minister believes the management actions in the territories are inadequate to protect the species and only after consulting with myself as the Minister of Environment and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. As Nunavut has a very robust wildlife management system, we do not anticipate such an order will be issued. If harvest restrictions are necessary, these will be established by the Government of Nunavut through community consultations and through processes established under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

There is already a Total Allowable Harvests on a number of barren-ground caribou herds. If the species is listed as threatened under *Species at Risk Act*, there will be a need to develop a recovery plan. Part of the recovery plan will be to identify threats and appropriate actions to address the threats. The plan will also identify critical habitat that will need to be protected; this will likely include caribou calving grounds.

The department is currently reviewing the COSEWIC recommendation to list barren-ground caribou as threatened. Once we have finalized this review we will develop a government position and identify this position to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and federal minister. If the federal minister accepts the COSEWIC

assessment to up list barren-ground caribou, a consultation must be completed to the appropriate territorial minister (NU DOE) and land claims wildlife management board (NWMB). We are also waiting to hear what the community and co-management partners position is after the community consultations to also help advise the GN position.

Until this process is complete I would ask that our caribou hunters follow Inuit Societal Values and practice responsible caribou harvesting.

Thank you.



ᓄᓇᓂᓪ ᓄᓇᓂᓪ ᓄᓇᓂᓪ
Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Adam Lightstone, MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak

Asked of: Hon. David Joanasie, Minister Responsible for NAC

Number: 208-5(2)

Date: 29 October 2018

Subject: Student Accommodations for Iqaluit Residents

Question:

To what extent did this policy change or amendment...? Well, who made the decision to place a blanket prohibition on Iqaluit residents from attaining student accommodation? Was it the Minister, the Board of Directors, or the bureaucrats within the Nunavut Arctic College?

Response:

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank Mr. Lightstone for raising this important topic in the house as he is raising an excellent point around a troubling policy. Nunavut Arctic College's Policy D.03, the Allocation of Learner Accommodation, was originally issued in August 1986 and has not been reviewed since October 2012. My office has received a number of concerns regarding this policy, which I brought forward to the Nunavut Arctic College's Board of Governors as the body responsible for administration policies. I've been informed that the Board discussed the issues at their recent retreat in Arviat, and that College staff will be drafting policy amendments to be implemented in the September 2019 academic year.

First Supplementary Question:

My first supplementary question is: how many students who were originally accepted to attend Nunavut Arctic College eventually denied or turned down their acceptance due to lack of student housing?

Response:

In response to the member's first supplementary question, I directed Nunavut Arctic College staff to canvas the senior educators as well as check with the Registrar's office for instances of withdrawals due to lack of housing. None of the College's senior staff were aware of any students who had to withdraw from their programs due to a lack of housing; however, the Registrar's office was able to identify 2 cases at the Nunatta campus where applicants cancelled their application for programs citing insufficient accommodation as the reason. As I'm sure the member will understand, I cannot go into this in more detail as disclosing the personal information of our students is prohibited under the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am keen to learn more about this problem. Therefore, I would urge all members to refer their constituents that may have faced similar issues to contact the College's Public Affairs Officer through the Nunavut Arctic College website. As identified in the College's 2019-2022 business plan for Nunavut Arctic College, a priority for this fiscal year is to conduct a needs assessment of learner accommodations in all three campus communities. The more information we are able to collect, the more thorough that assessment is likely to be.

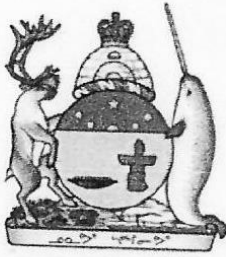
Second Supplementary Question:

Of the 149 units the minister just indicated are currently available in the Nunatta Campus, at the beginning of the academic school year, September 5 I believe it was, how many Iqaluit students were provided accommodation as of that date?

Response:

Finally, in response to Mr. Lightstone's second supplementary question, on September 5th, Nunavut Arctic College had a total of 12 units for Iqalumiut, 4 in single residence and 8 in family accommodations. As of today, we have 18 units occupied by Iqalumiut, 4 in single residence and 14 in family accommodations. Furthermore, I am pleased to note that at this time we have no waitlist at the Nunatta campus.

Qujannamiik Uqaqtittijii



ᓄᓇᓂᓪ ᐱᓕᓕᓂᓪᓂᓪ
Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

Return to Oral Question

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

Asked of: Jeannie Ehaloak, Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation

Number: 255 – 5(2)

Date: November 5, 2018

Subject: New Power Plants and Generators

Question:

On November 2 in the House the minister announced that there was \$175 million for a project. It seems to be a huge project. It seems like they will be making a new energy program and to renovate the old generators. My first question in regard to the minister's statement is: where are they going to be doing the project and when? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Response:

The total Arctic Energy Fund program cost is \$233 million; \$175 million from Infrastructure Canada and \$58 million from Qulliq Energy Corporation. QEC is preparing project proposals for 13 communities which will be subject to approval from the governments of Canada and Nunavut. The program starts in 2018-19 and ends in 2027-28.

Supplementary Question:

My supplementary at this point will just be asking for a yes-or-no answer. Will this major project, \$233 million, include any component related to renewable energy?

Response:

The Arctic Energy Fund focuses on replacing aging power infrastructure such as power plants and generator sets. As for renewable energy projects, QEC is looking at renewable energy options that will not increase electricity rates for customers.



Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

*Report on the Review of the
2016-2017 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board of Nunavut*

**2nd Session of the 5th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Fall 2018 Sitting**

Chairperson

John Main

Co-Chairperson

Cathy Towntongie

Members

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

www.assembly.nu.ca

Introduction

On June 14, 2018, the *2016-2017 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board of Nunavut* was formally tabled in the House by the Minister of Justice.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a hearing on the report from October 1-2, 2018. The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

The standing committee notes its appreciation to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board and her colleagues and staff for their attendance as witnesses during the hearing.

Observations and Recommendations

Issue: Annual Reporting and Business Planning Requirements

Section 9 of the *Legal Services Act* provides that:

Annual report of Board

9. (1) The Board shall prepare an annual report and submit it to the Minister in accordance with Part IX of the *Financial Administration Act*.

Legislative Assembly

(2) Every report submitted under subsection (1) shall be laid before the Legislative Assembly at the earliest possible time after it is received by the Minister.

The Legal Services Board's 2016-2017 annual report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until June 14, 2018, almost fifteen months after the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. As of November 1, 2018, the Board's 2017-2018 annual report had not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

On June 14, 2018, the annual Ministerial *Letters of Expectation* to the Chairpersons of the Boards of Directors and/or Governors of the Government of Nunavut's major Crown agencies and territorial corporations (Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Nunavut Development Corporation, Nunavut Housing Corporation and Qulliq Energy Corporation) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year were tabled in the Legislative Assembly. These *Letters of Expectation* provide for standardized financial reporting requirements in a number of areas.

Although the Department of Justice's annual business plans include specific priorities for the Legal Services Board, the Board itself does not appear to prepare a stand-alone business plan for tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

Although the Government of Nunavut's major Crown agencies and territorial corporations (Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Nunavut Development Corporation, Nunavut Housing Corporation and Qulliq Energy Corporation) prepare separate annual reports on their contracting, procurement and leasing activities, the Legal Services Board currently does not.

Although the standing committee fully appreciates and recognizes the need for the Legal Services Board to have a significant degree of operational autonomy and independence from the government, it is, nonetheless, mindful that the Board receives significant amounts of public funding on an annual basis and must be accountable for its expenditures.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the reasons for the delay in tabling the 2016-2017 annual report of the Legal Services Board.

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister of Justice begin the practice of providing an annual *Letter of Expectation* to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board which is broadly consistent with those that are currently provided to the Chairpersons of the Board of Directors and/or Governors of the Nunavut Arctic College, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Nunavut Development Corporation, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Legal Services Board begin the practice of preparing an annual, stand-alone business plan for transmittal to the Minister responsible for the Legal Services Board and subsequent tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee further recommends that the Legal Services Board begin the practice of either preparing an annual, stand-alone report on its contracting, procurement and leasing activities for transmittal to the Minister responsible for the Legal Services Board and subsequent tabling in the Legislative Assembly, or including comprehensive information on these activities in the annual report which is required under section 9 of the *Legal Services Act*. The information should be presented in a format that is broadly consistent with that which is currently published by the Nunavut Arctic College, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Nunavut Development Corporation, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Issue: Budgets and Business Cases

The 2018-2019 main estimates of the Department of Justice were approved by the Legislative Assembly during its spring 2018 sitting. The 2018-2019 main estimates included \$11,818,000 in direct public funding for the Legal Services Board.

The *2016-2017 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board* indicates that:

“The Board submitted a new business case to its primary partner, the Government of Nunavut, for additional funds to implement the strategic plan, Inuit Employment Plan, Success Plan and the Court Worker Plans. The plans are useful inasmuch as identifying key areas of required improvements for operational efficiency and service delivery effectiveness but it takes resources to implement. Another key area identified for significant improvements is the Court Worker program by providing court workers the much-needed support and training, both at the individual, regional and territorial level. The Board recognizes that it requires a full-time dedicated employee, an Access to Justice Director, to provide the Court Workers this support but also to work with other justice partners with respect to potential or improved partnerships such as restorative/community justice, family abuse intervention orders and public legal education.”

The Department of Justice’s current business plan indicates that the Legal Services Board’s budget is projected to remain unchanged in the upcoming 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 fiscal years.

In her formal opening comments to the standing committee, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board stated that:

“The LSB remains underfunded and may have to cut services in the near future to avoid deficit. The business case is focused on forced growth factors, such as increased number of court weeks, increased applications for legal aid assistance, increased travel and operational costs in line with annual inflation, transferring administrative duties from lawyers to clinic directors to stabilize clinic management and enhanced management support in the regions, at the same time fulfilling our land claim obligations under Article 23 and respond to increase in crime severity and more complex cases, increase in inquest applications, and increases in requests for services both in family and civil law. The business case also includes an assessment of costs to move forward to the next stages in implementing the LSB’s strategic plan, Inuit Employment Plan, our court worker program enhancement plan, and the LSB’s succession plan, including creating summer and articling positions for students of the Nunavut Law Program, and access to justice director position which would coordinate and support the court workers and public legal education mandates of the LSB.”

However, the standing committee's televised hearing revealed a lack of clarity as to the specific reasons for why the Legal Services Board's recent budget and/or business case submissions to the Department of Justice and/or the Financial Management Board were not approved.

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the process by which the Legal Services Board's business case that is referred to on page 2 of its 2016-2017 annual report was submitted and considered by the Department of Justice and/or the Financial Management Board.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the specific directives and/or guidelines that are issued by the Financial Management Board to entities that fall under Schedule A of the *Financial Administration Act*, including the Legal Services Board, in respect to the development and submission of budget proposals, requests and business cases.

Issue: Gjoa Haven Office

The *2016-2017 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board* indicates that:

“The Board and the Government of Nunavut continue to investigate and assess the Gjoa Haven office structure ... ascertaining which Government of Nunavut positions were properly approved and to ensure that there is a proper organizational chart that reflects both formal government ratification and operational reality.”

In her formal opening comments to the standing committee, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board stated that:

“The Legal Services Board and the Government of Nunavut’s [Department of] Justice, with the [Department of] Finance are working together to ascertain what is the true number of employees in the Gjoa Haven office, including which positions were approved through the Government of Nunavut’s Human Resources process, including job descriptions and funding.”

Although the standing committee recognizes the importance of maximizing the efficiency of the organizational structures of Government of Nunavut entities, it is also mindful of the importance of ensuring that any organizational changes made to entities in decentralized communities do not result in any net loss of positions within the communities.

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of the review of the Legal Services Board’s Gjoa Haven office.

Issue: Residency Requirements for Senior Employees of Statutory Bodies and Territorial Corporations

Testimony provided to the standing committee during its televised hearing revealed that the current Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Board resides in the province of New Brunswick and the current Comptroller of the Legal Services Board resides in the province in Manitoba.

The standing committee strongly opposes the practice of permitting senior employees of Government of Nunavut entities to reside in any jurisdiction other than the one that they are employed to serve.

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut prohibit, through the use of such mechanisms as directives made under the *Financial Administration Act* and Ministerial *Letters of Expectation*, the practice of permitting senior employees of statutory bodies listed in Schedule A of the *Financial Administration Act*, or territorial corporations listed in Schedule B of the *Financial Administration Act*, from being a resident of a jurisdiction other than Nunavut. This recommendation does not apply to any entities currently listed in Schedule C of the *Financial Administration Act*.

Issue: Federal Funding for Legal Aid in Nunavut under the Canada-Nunavut Access to Justice Services Agreement

The Government of Canada has signed Access to Justice Services Agreements with each of the three territorial governments. These intergovernmental agreements are “the means by which the Government of Canada financially supports the delivery of access to justice services in Northern communities, including legal aid, indigenous courtwork services and public legal education and information.”

The 2016-2017 Public Accounts of Canada indicate that the Government of Nunavut received \$2,457,315 during the 2016-2017 fiscal year under the agreement. The 2017-2018 Public Accounts of Canada indicate that the Government of Nunavut received \$2,615,613 during the 2017-2018 fiscal year under the agreement, which represents a 6.44% increase over the preceding fiscal year.

The *2016-2017 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board* indicates that its Chief Operating Officer “also sits, with officials of the Department of Justice Nunavut, Department of Justice Canada and other provincial/territorial legal aid plans, on the Provincial/Territorial Working Groups arising from the Access to Justice Services Agreement. The representatives meet regularly to discuss issues arising from the operation of the agreements, funding formulae, and the court worker programs.”

However, the standing committee’s televised hearing revealed a lack of clarity respecting the design and operation of the funding formula

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify, in detail, the design and operation of the funding formula under the current *Canada-Nunavut Access to Justice Services Agreement*.

Issue: Honoraria for Members of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board and Tariff of Rates for Resident Lawyers

Section 2 of the *Legal Services Regulations* made under the authority of the *Legal Services Act* include the official rates paid to the Chairperson and members of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board to attend meetings of the Board. However, these rates have not changed since the regulations were inherited by Nunavut on April 1, 1999. It is unclear if the Chairperson and members of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board are currently remunerated under this provision of the *Legal Services Regulations* or under the provisions of *Financial Administration Manual Directive 810*.

The *Legal Services Regulations* made under the authority of the *Legal Services Act* also include the official *Tariff of Rates* for resident and non-resident lawyers performing legal aid work. In order to provide an incentive for more lawyers to live and practice in Nunavut, resident lawyers are paid at a higher rate than non-resident lawyers. However, these rates have not been increased since the 2000-2001 fiscal year, almost two decades ago.

Standing Committee Recommendation #6:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, how the Chairperson and the members of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board are currently remunerated.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, its timeline for reviewing and amending the *Legal Services Regulations* in respect to the rates paid to the Chairperson and members of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board and the *Tariff of Rates* for resident lawyers performing legal aid work.

Issue: Police Oversight

Significant discussion of this issue took place during the standing committee's televised hearing. The standing committee emphasizes that its strong support for the front-line officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is complemented by its recognition of the importance of having appropriate accountability frameworks and mechanisms in place in respect to the institution.

The 2016-2017 annual report of the Legal Services Board indicates that:

“There continues to be a steady and increasing need for services in the areas of residential tenancy, employment law, poverty related issues, human rights, and excessive use of police force matters.”

On October 23, 2018, the Minister of Justice publicly stated in the Legislative Assembly that:

“Serious incidents are anything that causes injury or death of an individual that involves the RCMP employee or when it appears that an employee of the RCMP may have contravened a provision of the *Criminal Code of Canada* or other enactments. Serious incidents are reviewed by the Ottawa Police Service or the Calgary Police Service under the terms of a memorandum of understanding that the Department of Justice has with those police forces ... serious incidents could be reviewed by a civilian oversight board. The department is open to considering what options might be available to us.”

The standing committee recognizes that the capacity may not exist, at this time, for Nunavut to establish its own stand-alone civilian police oversight agency. However, the standing committee notes that on December 15, 2011, the Government of Yukon announced that it had entered into an agreement with the Government of Alberta “for the use of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) to conduct investigations into serious incidents involving the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.” It is the understanding of the standing committee that the Government of Yukon contributes a portion of ASIRT's annual budget.

The standing committee further notes that news media reports indicate that the same agency has been engaged to conduct at least one review of a matter involving the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

The standing committee further notes that it is of the understanding that the *Canada-Nunavut Territorial Police Services Agreement*, which was renewed for a 20-year term in April of 2012, provides for a contract management committee that has the mandate to address budgetary and resource issues. The standing committee further notes that a recent news media report indicates that the Government of Nunavut has “provided ‘V’ Division with \$1.575 million to install video cameras at detachments throughout the territory.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #7:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include copies of the Memoranda of Understanding that were referenced in the Minister of Justice's formal Statement to the Legislative Assembly of October 23, 2018.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut enter into exploratory discussions with the Government of Alberta concerning the advisability and practicability of entering into an intergovernmental agreement for the use of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team to investigate serious incidents occurring in Nunavut involving the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed description of the work of the contract management committee established under the *Canada-Nunavut Territorial Police Services Agreement* in relation to the installation and use of security cameras, body cameras and related technologies in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Nunavut detachments, and that this description include a detailed accounting of all expenditures incurred, and installations undertaken, by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's 'V' Division between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2018.

Issue: *Public Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*

Section 7 of the *Public Guardianship and Trusteeship Act* provides, in part, that:

Appointment of guardian

7. (1) The Court may, on hearing an application for a guardianship order, make a guardianship order where it is satisfied that

(a) the applicant has fulfilled the requirements of sections 2 to 4; and

(b) the person in respect of whom an application is made

(i) is an adult,

(ii) is in need of a guardian because the person

(A) is not able, by himself or herself or with assistance, to understand information that is relevant to making a decision concerning his or her own health care, nutrition, shelter, clothing, hygiene or safety, or

(B) is not able, by himself or herself or with assistance, to appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of a decision referred to in clause (A) or a lack of such a decision, and

(iii) will substantially benefit from the guardianship order.

In her formal opening comments to the standing committee, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board stated that:

“It has been brought to the LSB’s attention [that] there are Nunavummiut being subjected to guardianship applications with no legal representation or assistance. This includes individuals who do not appear to be a threat to themselves or to anyone else. Some are merely low-functioning and/or homeless and may not have met the legal test for public guardianship. This may very well be a Charter infraction regarding the right to legal representation if the government wishes to restrict or remove a person’s freedom to make their own decisions, including where they live, or what they do, or for how long.”

The standing committee notes that the 2016-2017 annual report of the Director of Child and Family Services, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 14, 2017, indicated that:

“As at March 31, 2017, the Public Guardian was responsible for 230 active files ... the Department [of Family Services] is continuing to work with the Departments of Justice and Finance to explore modelling the Public Guardian as a separate entity, similar to the Public Trustee Office, affiliated with the Department of Justice ... given the Department of Family Services’ efforts in separating the Public Guardian from the Child and Family Services Division, future annual reports [of the Director of Child and Family Services] will no longer contain statistics pertaining to this program.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #8:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify, in detail, its position regarding the concerns noted by the Chairperson of the Legal Services Board in respect to the *Public Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed statistical breakdown of the number of individuals who are, as of November 1, 2018, under guardianship orders made pursuant to the *Public Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*, and that this breakdown indicate how many of the persons are currently residing outside of Nunavut.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of its work to “explore modelling the Public Guardian office as a separate entity, similar to the Public Trustee Office affiliated with the Department of Justice.”

Issue: Co-ordination of Public Legal Education Programs and Initiatives

Section 7 of the *Legal Services Act* provides that:

Objects of Board

7. The objects of the Board are

- (a) to ensure the provision of legal services to all eligible persons;
- (b) to ensure that the legal services provided and the various systems for providing those services are the best that circumstances permit; and
- (c) to develop and co-ordinate territorial or local programs aimed at
 - (i) reducing and preventing the occurrence of legal problems,
 - (ii) increasing knowledge of the law, legal processes and the administration of justice, and
 - (iii) providing public education and outreach with respect to human rights.

Although the 2016-2017 annual report of the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Justice on June 14, 2018, indicates that “education is the backbone of any human rights code,” it also claims that “the mandate of the Tribunal does not include public education, nor should it. Public education and outreach is the responsibility of the Legal Services Board.”

The 2015-2016 annual report of the Nunavut Law Foundation, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Justice on June 14, 2018, indicates that it “provides provides grants for the purpose of encouraging and supporting projects and initiatives that generally serve to advance greater awareness of the law and promote greater access to justice in Nunavut.”

The standing committee sees merit and value in greater co-operation between appropriate entities in the design and delivery of public legal education programs and initiatives in Nunavut.

Standing Committee Recommendation #9:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify, in detail, the extent to which the Department of Justice, the Legal Services Board, the Nunavut Law Foundation and the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal co-ordinate the design and delivery of public legal education programs and initiatives in Nunavut.

Issue: Amendments to the *Legal Services Act*

Section 4 of the *Legal Services Act* currently provides that:

Chairperson

4. (1) At its first meeting in each fiscal year, the Board shall elect a chairperson from among its members.

Vacancy

(2) Where the position of chairperson becomes vacant during the fiscal year, the Board may fill the vacancy pending the first meeting of the Board in the next fiscal year.

During the standing committee's televised hearing, the following exchange took place:

Mr. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just proceed with that. Does the board of directors support amending the *Legal Services Act* to provide for multi-year terms for its chairperson? Do you support that idea? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Redfern.

Ms. Redfern: By default, for the last ten years, I have held the majority of the position of chair, but I understand and appreciate where the Member is coming from. It's important to have stability and consistency. I did not expect to return this fourth time, but given the amount of turnover in the organization at the board level, the board felt it was important to make me chair again. I agree and support that a three-year term instead of every year affirming it would provide more stability for the organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The standing committee considers the witness's testimony to be persuasive.

Standing Committee Recommendation #10:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut introduce a bill during the life of the 5th Legislative Assembly to amend section 4 of the *Legal Services Act* to provide for a three-year term of office for the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board.

The standing committee further recommends that the Minister of Justice invite the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board to submit formal recommendations concerning other specific potential amendments to the *Legal Services Act* and/or the *Legal Services Regulations*, and that these recommendations be included in the Legal Services Board's 2018-2019 annual report.

**Issue: Establishment of an Advisory Committee under Section 27 of the
 *Legal Services Act***

Section 27 of the *Legal Services Act* currently provides that:

Definition of "advisory committee"

27. (1) In this section, "advisory committee" means an advisory committee established under subsection (2).

Advisory committee

(2) **The Minister may establish an advisory committee** to advise the Minister and, if requested by the Board, to advise the Board on

- (a) matters of general and regional concern affecting the provision of legal services;
- (b) the administration of this Act and the regulations; and
- (c) the objects of the Board.

Composition of advisory committee

(3) The advisory committee shall be composed of

- (a) the senior judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice or another judge nominated by the senior judge;
- (b) one lawyer in private practice; and
- (c) other persons selected by the Minister.

Appointment of members

(4) The members of the advisory committee under paragraphs (3)(b) and (c) shall be appointed by the Minister.

Expenses

(5) Members of the advisory committee shall be reimbursed for the prescribed expenses.

During its televised hearing, the standing committee was advised that "... it was decided and determined that it would be very unwieldy to have an advisory committee ...". However, the testimony provided to the standing committee was unclear as to the specifics of how, when and why this determination was made, or the position of the Minister in this matter.

Standing Committee Recommendation #11:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, its position respecting the establishment of an advisory committee under section 27 of the *Legal Services Act*.

Issue: Activities of the Nunavut Justice Efficiency Committee/Court Users Committee

The *2016-2017 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board* indicates that:

“In previous years the Chief Operating Officer sat on the justice efficiency committee, which comprised senior officials in the Justice Department, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada as well as the Senior Judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice. Together we’d examine systemic issues with a view to finding ways to increase efficiencies, maximizing value for dollars and make the experience for Nunavummiut navigating court processes less cumbersome and difficult. The Committee met once this year under a new title - Court Users Committee.”

During the standing committee’s televised hearing, Members requested an update on recent activities of this body, but were informed that it had been “dissolved.” However, the testimony provided to the standing committee was unclear as to the specifics of how, when and why this determination was made.

Standing Committee Recommendation #12:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify, in detail, the status of the Nunavut Justice Efficiency Committee/Court Users Committee.

Issue: Choice of Counsel

Section 40 of the *Legal Services Act* provides that:

Right of eligible person

40. Where an eligible person is charged with an offence, other than a prescribed offence, for which the maximum penalty is life imprisonment, the eligible person may for his or her defence select any lawyer who is resident in Nunavut and prepared to act on behalf of the eligible person.

In September of 2014, the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Board approved an amended *Criminal Choice of Counsel Policy*.

However, section 5.1 of the Legal Services Board's *Criminal Law Coverage and Eligibility Policy*, which was also approved by the Board in September of 2014, indicates that:

“Due to a lack of a resident, private criminal defence bar in Nunavut, the Legal Services Board is currently unable to fulfill its obligations under section 40 of the Act ... until there is a satisfactory increase in the number of resident, criminal law lawyers willing and able to take on section 40 files, which would enable the Legal Services Board to meet its statutory and common law choice of counsel commitments, the Chief Executive Office is provided with the sole authority and discretion to assign counsel to those accused facing the possibility of life imprisonment.”

The standing committee considers this inconsistency to be troubling.

Standing Committee Recommendation #13:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, what specific actions the Legal Services Board is currently taking to achieve a “satisfactory increase in the number of resident, criminal law lawyers willing and able to take on section 40 files.”

Issue: Financial Eligibility for Legal Aid

A number of the Legal Services Board's policies include a Financial Eligibility Grid. This is used to help determine an applicant's eligibility for legal aid.

The current business plan of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Justice indicates that the Legal Services Board "amended the legal aid financial eligibility policy and guidelines to improve assessment capacity and updated financial guidelines" during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the income thresholds in the Legal Services Board's Financial Eligibility Grid take into account the high cost of living in Nunavut and the expense for citizens to engage private legal counsel.

Standing Committee Recommendation #14:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the Legal Services Board's methodology for determining the current income thresholds in its Financial Eligibility Grid.

The standing committee further recommends that these income thresholds be periodically reviewed every three to five years.

Issue: Tabling of Legal Services Board Policies

The 2016-2017 annual report of the Legal Services Board indicates that it “assisted three families in different type of inquests, including death within police custody and suicide inquest ... the organization has become increasingly involved in a number of inquests, which has posed some challenges, especially inquests that may or may not fall within the organization’s mandate.” The current business plan of the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Justice indicates that the Legal Services Board “formalized an inquest participation policy” during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The current business plan of the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Justice also indicates that the Legal Services Board “amended the legal aid financial eligibility policy and guidelines to improve assessment capacity and updated financial guidelines” during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The current business plan of the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Justice indicates that the Legal Services Board “drafted a non-harassment policy” during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Standing Committee Recommendation #15:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include copies of the Legal Services Board’s “inquest participation policy,” “legal aid financial eligibility policy” and “non-harassment policy.”