



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 30

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Pages 1842 – 1905

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*

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(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)

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

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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the Committee of the Whole*

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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
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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)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, November 8, 2018**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeli Kaernerck, 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. Paul Quassa, 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): Ms. Towtongie, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and my colleagues. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut who are listening to the radio broadcast and watching the televised proceedings. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

Speaker's Statement

Today is the final sitting day of our fall sitting, and I am very pleased to take this opportunity to announce that the annual nomination period for the Order of Nunavut is now open.

As the House is aware, the *Order of Nunavut Act* came into force in January of 2010.

The objective of the Order of Nunavut is to “honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cultural, social or economic well-being of Nunavut.”

The Order of Nunavut is the highest honour of Nunavut and takes precedence over all other orders, decorations, or medals awarded or conferred by the Government of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) The Order of Nunavut Advisory Council, which I have the honour of chairing as Speaker, considers nominations to the order and makes recommendations to the Commissioner of Nunavut, who serves as the Chancellor of the Order.

Nomination forms are available from the offices of Members of the Legislative Assembly and can be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2019.

Investiture ceremonies will take place on a subsequent date.

I am also pleased to take this opportunity to note that a total of 17 individuals have received the Order of Nunavut to date for their contributions in such fields as public and community service, the arts, education, language promotion, spiritual leadership, and business development.

My colleagues and I on the advisory council look forward to considering the nominations of distinguished individuals, and I encourage all Nunavummiut to consider nominating individuals who may be deserving of our territory's highest honour in recognition

of a lifetime of accomplishment and service.

I should also note that if you previously nominated an individual or individuals for consideration, you may choose to re-nominate them if they were not selected for appointment.

Finally, I am delighted to take this opportunity to welcome the inclusion of the Order of Nunavut into the Canadian Honours System.

After the *Order of Nunavut Act* came into force, the advisory council began the process of seeking formal national recognition of our order alongside other national, provincial and territorial honours.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the Office of the Commissioner and the office of our territory's Senator for their support and work in facilitating this process.

The decision to include the Order of Nunavut into the Canadian Honours System was formalized last month by way of a federal Order in Council that has been approved by the Governor General, and I wish to conclude by publicly extending to Her Excellency an open invitation to attend our next investiture ceremony.

(interpretation) We will now proceed to the orders of the day.

>> *Applause*

Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 123 – 5(2): Update on NorthMart Fire

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Arviat, and my daughter, (interpretation ends) one more (interpretation) sleep and I'll see you.

(interpretation ends) Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak on behalf of the Government of Nunavut about the devastating fire at the NorthMart here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the fire is being contained and managed by the City of Iqaluit for the time being, and Nunavut Emergency Management is on standby to offer whatever support we can. We are working closely with the city to stay updated and help coordinate services.

Mr. Speaker, as an update, elders from the nearby elders' home have been evacuated and are placed in rooms, with a nurse overseeing their care and comfort. Nunavut Airport Services are on site and assisting at the scene, and relief firefighters will be brought in from Pangnirtung and Cape Dorset.

The Department of Health is assisting with prescriptions and will be able to store medications at the Qikiqtani General Hospital in the interim. The Department of Family Services' income support clients can have their benefits transferred to another store in the interim. Additionally, the Government of Nunavut has cold and heated storage available for food storage, if and when needed.

Mr. Speaker, federal Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs

Dominic LeBlanc has already reached out to my office to offer support, and I will keep him updated on the situation and our needs.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking all the firefighters, responders, and staff who are working tirelessly to fight this fire and to put in place plans to mitigate disruption of goods and services. Also, thank you to the Red Cross, local businesses, and the community for their help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 124 – 5(2):
Tourism Business Award**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to highlight the success and recent recognition of two tourism businesses in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the firm Polar Outfitting is owned and operated by Alexander Flaherty. This past August I was delighted to hear that Polar Outfitting won the Top Aboriginal Business of the Year award at the Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference.

>>Applause

Arctic Bay Adventures, wholly owned by the Hamlet of Arctic Bay, has also earned recognition for its success. Arctic Bay Adventures has won the 2018 Indigenous Adventure Award, which is given by the Indigenous Tourism

Association of Canada to businesses that demonstrate excellence in responsible and sustainable indigenous adventure travel.

Mr. Speaker, over the past two years my department has worked with both Polar Outfitting and Arctic Bay Adventures through our Inuit Business Development Program. This program supports Inuit-owned tourism businesses by providing them with national and international exposure, as well as trade-readiness training and support to help build business relationships.

Mr. Speaker, these two Inuit-owned companies demonstrate that our tourism businesses can achieve great success as they invite tourists to experience Nunavut. My department is committed to supporting and promoting this type of entrepreneurship in the tourism industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 125 – 5(2):
Baffin Island Caribou Research
and Management**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to provide an update on the research and management that our government has been leading in the Qikiqtaaluk region. The Baffin Island caribou herd is a very important herd for Nunavummiut living in this region, and following the significant declines in this herd, proper management to ensure a recovery has become a priority for our

Wildlife Management Division.

My department was able to carry out composition surveys each year since the 2014 population estimate survey. The results of those surveys have now been included in a final report. The report has been shared with each hunters and trappers organization, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and several other co-management partners. Our wildlife research staff will be leading consultations on the results of these surveys in early 2019. During these consultations, our staff will be looking for input from each community on what future research of Baffin Island caribou should include.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to share today that the hunters and trappers organizations in the Baffin region have taken a very proactive role in the monitoring and reporting of the harvest by their members, resulting in high rates of compliance. As of October 4, 2018, there have been 151 caribou harvested on Baffin Island out of the 250 male-only annual quota.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give recognition to the biologists, co-management partners, and community members who have been contributing to the management of this caribou herd as we work toward its recovery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 126 – 5(2):
Emergency Management
Exemplary Service Award**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Rankin Inlet. I am happy that I will be returning home tomorrow.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide the members of the Nunavut legislature information on the Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, federal, provincial and territorial ministers agreed on the development of a national emergency management exemplary service award. Ministers also noted the importance of recognizing the valour and service of search and rescue volunteers across Canada. Senior FPT officials worked with the Canadian Heraldic Authority to create the proposed award to be relevant across all jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Emergency Management requested nominations for this very prestigious award from our communities in the five categories: Resilient Communities, Youth, Outstanding Contribution to Emergency Management, Search and Rescue Employees, and Search and Rescue Volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Emergency Management received five nominations from across Nunavut which then were submitted to Public Safety Canada. Submissions were reviewed by the general selection committee for acceptance to a very strict criterion on acceptance.

Mr. Speaker, many nominations did not meet the criteria. In fact many jurisdictions in Canada did not receive an award in any category.

Mr. Speaker, while not all our nominations made it through the screening criteria, I am proud to say that two Nunavummiut were awarded the Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award in the Search and Rescue Volunteers category.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that Mr. Esa Qillaq and Mr. Josie Esa Piungituq of Clyde River are the first Nunavummiut to receive this award.

>>Applause

I congratulate them on their dedication and service to their community and to those who are in need, lost, or stranded on the land. They are an inspiration to all of us and deserve our thanks and admiration for their dedication to others.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Emergency Management has just received the award from Public Safety Canada and will be having it engraved for presentation to the recipients. An award ceremony will be held in Clyde River and we're making plans to go there and attend that in the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 127 – 5(2):
Creation of a New Department of
Human Resources**

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In July of 2018 our government announced the creation of a new Department of Human Resources, which would consolidate the human resource functions currently housed in the departments of Finance and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Today I would like to provide an update to my colleagues on how the planning is progressing. DPRA, a consulting firm specializing in organizational design and effectiveness, was contracted to provide a proposed organizational structure and implementation plan. In August 2018 DPRA conducted interviews with multiple stakeholders to gather information and insight to assist with their work.

Mr. Speaker, senior officials from the Premier's Office and the departments of Finance and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs met with DPRA on several occasions to discuss the proposed organizational structure options and the proposed implementation plan

The committee selected the option that would best serve the Government of Nunavut in meeting the following objectives and priorities: continuing to strengthen human resource capacity across the public service; refocusing human resources policies and programs towards Inuit employment at all levels of the public service; and ensuring that government structures, processes, and programs operate in a fiscally responsible manner that supports action on priorities and meets the needs of all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, in order to meet these

objectives, the new Department of Human Resources will be more robust than under its previous structure while allowing for some structural differences.

The departments of Finance and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will communicate changes to impacted staff as plans are finalized so the April 1, 2019 implementation date can be met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 128 – 5(2): Early Learning and Child Care Training Sessions and Resources

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

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I announce today that the Department of Education held training sessions in August 2018 for early childhood educators across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, these training sessions are in part a result of the three-year action plan that my staff developed for the Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement with the Government of Canada signed in September 2017.

Mr. Speaker, over 90 participants from 35 licensed facilities across Nunavut participated in sessions on best practices in early childhood education. Additionally, two days of financial literacy training sessions followed those sessions, attended by 23 managers

representing 29 licensed child care facilities.

During the training sessions, our department also unveiled the early learning and child care resources that will be distributed to all licensed facilities by March 2019. These resources include a Nunavut-themed play rug, themed activity books, in-service videos, CDs, and various manipulative toys such as blocks and puppets. Mr. Speaker, these resources will be available in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English, and French, reflecting the Inuit culture and the environment we live in.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to support the staff working in licensed child care facilities by providing training opportunities and resources to help them with planning and delivery of their programs. We believe that training and resources will have a positive impact on the development of the children attending the licensed child care facilities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

Minister's Statement 129 – 5(2): Working Together

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for recognizing me again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on the last day of this session I would like to take the opportunity to announce that our newest member of Executive Council,

Minister Patterk Netser, will assume the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College portfolios, effective tomorrow. On behalf of cabinet, welcome to the team and congratulations, Mr. Patterk.

>>Applause

In addition, Minister Jeannie Ehaloak will retain the Qulliq Energy Corporation file while I will take on responsibility as Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say a few words to all members as we prepare to say “goodbye” to the House for a few months.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a hectic few weeks for all of us members. It has been busy and there has been tension and change. It hasn't been an easy time for any of us.

Today I want to thank all members for their dedication and commitment to our territory. There is a lot of passion in this room and a lot of work for all of us to do. As we head back to our communities, I want our vision and goals to be aligned, and for us to remain focused on the goals we all set out in our mandate, *Turaaqtavut*.

Mr. Speaker, we all work to create a better territory for Nunavummiut. Despite our differences of opinions and perspectives, we are all here for the right reasons, and we all want to create change and progress and we all work together to make this happen.

This was my first session as Premier and I am honoured and humbled to be in this

role. I am committed to keeping our lines of communication open and to learn with you and from you. Again, I thank all of you for your hard work and perseverance. I wish all of you a safe travel home and happiness and health until we meet again in 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser, we are proud of you.

Ministers' Statements. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 203 – 5(2): Iqaluit Fire Situation

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I say “good afternoon” to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I, too, wanted to rise today to talk about what's happening here in Iqaluit to join with my colleagues in expressing shock of the events of the past 12 hours in Iqaluit. It's truly devastating to see a big fire like that.

Mr. Speaker, although the situation is still in flux, it does appear that the fire at NorthMart has been contained and that the main store has survived the fire. Let us pray that that's the case.

Mr. Speaker, let me first pay tribute to the first responders. They have been there all night working tirelessly to respond to the situation. I also want to pay tribute to all the people at the GN, or

Government of Nunavut, and at the city who were also in full response mode. I want to also thank the volunteers and the organizations such as the Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, I do wish to emphasize that the authorities have clearly stated that the community is not going to run out of food and to emphasize that there is no need for panic-buying or hoarding.

Mr. Speaker, it has been reported that there were also a number of fires in other locations over the last 12 hours. I have every confidence that the appropriate authorities will undertake the appropriate investigations, and we need to let them do their work.

Mr. Speaker, an event like this disrupts lives, including the many people who work at the store. I am heartened by the way in which many organizations are pulling together to recover and rebuild, and I want to assure all residents of our community of the support of this House and its members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 204 – 5(2):
Nunavut's Capital Budgeting
Cycle**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. (interpretation ends) First of all, I would like to echo the sentiments of my colleague and we really appreciate all the first responders all across Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this is my first experience as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and I am continuously learning new procedures. I wanted to share what I have noted in the capital planning process and I would like to speak to that issue today.

Based on my understanding, the Government of Nunavut was established back in 1999, and to date the capital planning process has continued to evolve. Further, I wish to speak to some of the issue here and now. Nunavut changes daily as the constant in our lives.

In speaking about the capital planning process, I have several ideas which, if true, will also result in changes to this process, especially in light of the changes Nunavummiut want enacted within the House here, so our procedures must also change.

I have four ideas that I want to talk about, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have four suggestions and I'll try not to be too general, but I'll try not to be too specific here, okay?

My first suggestion when it comes to capital projects in Nunavut is that we need to seriously re-evaluate the idea of Inuit labour content. What I am talking about here is how we build major projects.

Just in the recent days we saw a major project in the tens of millions of dollars come forward with a 15 percent Inuit labour content attached to it. I don't know about everyone else in this House, but representing my constituents, if that was going to happen in my community, I would be ashamed to see a 15 percent

labour content.

We have a huge amount of unemployed people in our communities across Nunavut.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Main: Unemployment is one of the things that are killing Nunavummiut, poverty and unemployment. That's the first area I think we need to seriously re-evaluate.

(interpretation) 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. Main, please proceed.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. (interpretation ends) Two minutes and 30 seconds (interpretation) run out rather quickly.

(interpretation ends) To conclude my first suggestion on the Inuit labour content, I don't know how we can get beyond 15 percent here in Iqaluit, for example, or 20 percent. I think it's something that we seriously need to evaluate and we seriously need to take a rethink of what we are doing because, if you consider that we have this huge untapped labour market, when you look at the high unemployment rate in many of our communities, unemployed people and a very low Inuit employment content on our capital projects, maybe I'm naïve, but I sense there's an opportunity there. That's my first point.

My second point or suggestion that I would like to make is we need to reconsider how we scope out our capital projects, and I'm talking about the preplanning stage. When we're in the preplanning stage for a capital project, we need to include all communities as possible locations for infrastructure.

Just yesterday in the House, one of my colleagues raised the idea of placing infrastructure, territorial or regional infrastructure, in a non-regional centre community and he was laughed at.

For my colleagues from Iqaluit who are right next to me, to be clear, I'm not saying that we should not put any infrastructure into Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, or Cambridge Bay. Of course we will put infrastructure into those communities because they are our centres. What I am saying is that we should not be tricked into thinking that all infrastructure needs to go into those communities, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

Mr. Main: We should not be closing our minds to options that may benefit Nunavummiut in the very early planning stages of capital projects. I would also include approaches to how we build things and how we pay for things, not just looking at which community it goes into but looking into whether we are planning to partner with private industry or whether we're planning to build it ourselves.

Our government was built with a decentralized idea and I would love to see that decentralized mentality be

applied to capital projects, Mr. Speaker. That's my second suggestion.

My third suggestion; I already mentioned the private capital market. (interpretation) We are all aware that we face a shortage of funding as a government. We are aware of that fact. We face funding shortages on every front, especially housing just to use that example. We keep voicing the fact that yes, we are aware of our housing crisis throughout Nunavut. However, our funds are insufficient to fulfill that need as the levels are only enough to alleviate our shortage, so yes, it is insufficient.

(interpretation ends) I believe that we have opportunities to tap into the private capital markets, whether it be for housing, partnering with mining companies, for example, whether we're partnering with private investors to bring up hydro power into Nunavut and/or telecommunications, including fibre optics, or to build roads and ports, Mr. Speaker.

The problem that I see under the current process is that there is a lack of clarity for the private sector when they want to partner with the Nunavut government. What areas do we want to work with private businesses in? Have we made that clear? Are we open to proposals from the private sector? Are we open to new P3 projects? That's a huge question, Mr. Speaker.

We have one of Nunavut's largest ever infrastructure projects just down the road here which is a P3 project. I don't know. Was that P3 a success? Was it a failure? We should try to understand it so that going forward we have some clarity for the private sector in terms of where they

can invest and what our expectations are as a government.

My final suggestion is that we need to seriously re-evaluate the relationship that we have with municipalities when it comes to infrastructure. The approach that we are taking has changed over the years, but it's one that was inherited from the days of when our capital was in Yellowknife, in the N.W.T. days.

We need to acknowledge as a government that some municipalities are fully capable of building their own infrastructure at this point in time, and we need to enable those that are capable to do that. I don't know what the answer is, but I believe that we need to empower them in one way or another so that they can lead and build their own communities alongside us.

Mr. Speaker, I realize I have gone on for a bit and I do apologize, but I really feel that if we can change these four areas together, I believe that they could make things better in Nunavut. I hope to see changes and conclusions. I hope to see changes in the coming years in terms of how we make our decisions on infrastructure projects, on how we fund them, how we work with the private sector, and how we treat our municipalities and communities across Nunavut when it comes to building our territory together. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 205 – 5(2):
Traditional Knowledge about
Polar Bears**

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have deliberated for quite some time on how we as members and government can stop just paying lip service to providing services using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as a base.

I want to speak about polar bears icons, and grizzly bears are becoming worrisome today to our children, women, and hunters. Now, when we go south, we tend to see these stylized teddy bears or pictures embossed on ties and clothing as if bears were cuddly. These are teaching our youth that bears are not dangerous. When I was growing up, which I know many of my colleagues share, we were advised that polar bears are extremely wise and to never speak ill of them as they can hear humans.

Furthermore, we were informed and knew that husky dogs were integral to our ancestors, as they raised their dogs, teaching them to hunt polar bears when out hunting with their dog teams. It is like today on par with the K-9 dogs the RCMP use to search for people. We have lost our traditional knowledge of using husky dogs to survive.

We were also taught as we were growing up about Inuit safety rules. When a polar bear approaches you, you have to keep an eye on the lower jaw in the final attack and if it facing left or right, then you shift towards it as the jaw would hit the paw.

I know of an individual, Moses Aliyak, who was attacked twice by a polar bear and twice he was able to survive the

attacks due to his knowledge of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. The Inuit rule is that you must never turn your back to a wild animal when being attacked.

As a matter of fact, we have many Inuit songs called *Aajaajaa* about experiences our ancestors went through. If Inuit were to sing about polar bears, it is how the information was passed on about the large white bears and large yellow bears.

What I am thinking about here is we have to reflect on this matter because an elder who was ill was craving for polar bear liver as he wanted to swallow a small piece. He was unable to get his wish, as there were no more tags in the quota and nobody caught one.

There has been no research into the ways polar bear by-products can serve as medicinal salves.

I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement; I still have a part to say, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I know of times when my mother and father used polar bear salves when people were suffering skin complications where they applied it. My mother used blubber as an ointment, bearded seal blubber added with a small portion of polar bear blubber when a person had a rash that would not heal.

I am also aware of the fact that quotas were never used prior to the modern age. Our elders believe that all animals have cyclical populations or, in English, (interpretation) cycle, (interpretation) with some animals having seven-year cycles while others have a five-year cycle where the population crashes. It is a (interpretation ends) cycle.

(interpretation) This quota system is not the only management system we can use. Why are Inuit being forced into this system? I anticipate that when the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board holds its hearings on polar bears, they should take into consideration a different system than this quota system.

There are 600 polar bear tags that can be used to harvest them. Where did this number come from? Our ancestors fully believed that during different years, in the various months of the year, they would look at trends where the healthiest polar bears are available, either for clothing, medical purposes, or healthy food. This knowledge too is being lost and forgotten.

I have expectations now that the 600 tags should be increased. We have scientists who eventually become so-called experts. When they arrived from the south, the Inuit knowledge voice was shut down. I expect this to be considered on what parts of our animals can be used for medicinal purposes, such as the gall bladder, liver, and to have the chemical properties studied by the best experts of our southern fellow citizens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Member's Statement 206 – 5(2):
Tribute to Recipients of the Louie
Kamookak Medal**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. First of all, on behalf of Gjoa Haven, we are thinking of Iqalummiut today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud to rise today and pay tribute to this year's recipient of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's Louie Kamookak Medal.

Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues are very much aware, the late Louie Kamookak was a 2016 recipient of the Order of Nunavut for his lifetime of contributions to the field of arctic history. He was also an honorary vice-president of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the society held an event in our nation's capital to recognize "achievements in geography, exploration, and education."

The 2018 recipients of the Louis Kamookak Medal were Josephine Kamookak, Gregory Copley, Jarid Harris, Anne Ovind, Michael Palin, and Kim Wallace.

Mr. Speaker, the society introduced the medal this year. Its purpose is to "recognize a person, organization, or significant deed that has helped make Canada's geography better known to Canadians and the world."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the

House that the society's citation for Josephine Kamookak, Louie's widow, noted that she was "both his partner in life and in his life's work completing and retelling the stories of the central Arctic."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to please join me in congratulating Josephine Kamookak and the other recipients of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's Louie Kamookak Medal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 207 – 5(2):
Appreciation of Colleagues**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak. To my granddaughter Ameena, I say (interpretation ends) "two more sleeps."

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my appreciation to my colleagues, to our Premier and members of his cabinet, the ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank all of our assistants who have offices on the third floor upstairs, along with our interpreters whom I especially thank as they assist us in understanding each other.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, on a final note, I wish to say your ability to use your mandate as

the Speaker, which you exercised the other day, to advise us as members of our role was palpable as being heartfelt due to the challenges we faced in this House. I thank you for those words of advice.

Lastly, my expectations are that this is the last day, and we will all start travelling home as this serves as our last day of sitting. I wish all colleagues a safe flight home and we will see each other in the new year. I wish everyone good health as fellow humans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Member's Statement 208 – 5(2):
Appreciation to All after This
Sitting**

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Amittuq and my colleagues.

As part of our farewell wishes, I also wish to voice my thanks. Firstly, I wish to thank my wife immensely as she provides a lot of support. To my fellow residents of Amittuq, I am thankful to you all as I too didn't expect to represent you.

To all of the ministers, I appreciate your tolerance and patience, so I also thank you. Along with my colleagues here, I am saying my goodbyes and voicing my gratitude to you all, as we have gone through difficult sections. Nonetheless, when we collaborate effectively, we are able to move forward.

I also want to especially thank our interpreters. I thank you and this includes our assistants and employees. I also want to single out someone who rarely speaks in the Chamber, our Clerk. John, I want to publicly thank you as you seemingly never stop working.

Now, in talking about thankfulness, I believe we need to showcase that more frequently to Nunavummiut and try not to focus solely on difficult matters or antagonism so that they see a more balanced proceedings in this House, but sometimes it is almost impossible due to our challenges. We have to let Nunavummiut know that yes, we are working on your behest and I wanted to just voice my appreciation here and why I stood to speak.

In wanting to express all of my thoughts in a coherent way, I sometimes lose my thoughts and that is unfortunate.

Now, let me conclude with this statement: when I arrive home, I am so ecstatic that I will be able to square dance as if there is no tomorrow.

>> *Laughter*

Further, in saying my farewells, I am now saying this to the ministers: we don't usually hear too many songs here. "*We will all see each other again...*" Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 209 – 5(2): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, along with my fellow residents of Igloolik and the people of Amittuq, Aggu, and Nunavut, including my colleagues. I was finally able to return today, so that is joyous for me. I really wanted to return to see all my colleagues as this is our final day of sitting today.

However, the subject of my statement relates to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* that we all use as our foundation here. Both the government and House are based on that knowledge. This includes collaboration, negotiations, and brainstorming amongst others that we use as our foundation. It is very important in this House, both during our proceedings and to our government. Inuit have had expectations from the start that we have to operate using this foundation here in the Legislative Assembly. Furthermore, I take pride in the fact that we can follow this pool of knowledge, and we too have to adhere more closely to our traditional knowledge base, including the foundation that created Nunavut.

The Inuktitut language also needs to be practised at every opportunity, so let's speak it more often when we are able to use it. Many Inuit or the majority of Nunavummiut speak Inuktitut, so we should keep that in the back of our minds. I know for a fact that we use the language, so I urge you to try to use our beautiful language at every opportunity.

Now that most of us will be travelling home, I wish you safe travels. I also wanted to voice the fact that this is the first time I have been able to speak from the other side of the House, but I wanted to thank the regular members for their

hospitality and a reminder that we should always consider our fellow Inuit, all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 210 – 5(2):
Remembering Levi Tudlik this
Remembrance Day**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have now been two members singing in the Assembly. I think we may get some fans.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, let me start by saying that since I had to move here due to becoming a minister, I want to start by thanking Iqalummiut as they have continually welcomed my wife and I to town and they ask if we are okay, which happens quite frequently. They have shown great hospitality here, and I am informing Rankin Inlet residents about their warm hospitality and that they are very welcoming, for which we are grateful.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, Remembrance Day will soon be commemorated to honour soldiers who died in wartime, along with all of our soldiers this coming Sunday.

I used to have a nephew, who was my sister's son named Levi Tudlik. He was younger than I was, but at that point in time he informed me he was joining the

Canadian Armed Forces. When he said that, I let him know I was happy for him as we used to discuss all sorts of things.

He joined the army and when he returned home, I happened to see him, and he told me, "Uncle, I am going to Lahr, Germany." That is halfway around the world! He stated he would be travelling there for his army tenure. He was extremely happy and proud when he visited me at our home, and this was around when the 1980s started.

When he started to leave, I told him to call me once in a while, and he agreed and left, and travelled to Germany for his service period. I can't recall how long afterwards, but it was really late at night, around 3:00 a.m. when my phone rang. I wondered what emergency had occurred to cause my phone to ring at such a late hour. When I picked it up, I heard, (interpretation ends) "Collect call from Levi Tudlik. Do you accept the charge?" (interpretation) I said yes and said, "Hello?" He told me I had asked to call once in a while, so he was calling while in Germany.

I asked how he was doing and he said, "I am fine," but he was hankering to speak in Inuktitut, so he called me. My next question was how he got my phone number, to which he replied, "You gave me the phone number and it's in my wallet," and we talked. I told him to call once in a while... .

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

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

Please proceed, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, colleagues.

To continue, after a two-week period, he called me again and he would call on a regular basis, usually very early in the morning. He would wake me up in order to speak in Inuktitut. When Inuit travel around the world, we get a desire to speak in our language.

I was quite proud of my nephew as he used to call while stationed in Germany, where he would work on bridges and when required, he would demolish other bridges on occasion. I used to take joy, but I deeply regret that he is no longer here on Earth with us. Nonetheless, on Sunday, many soldiers will be remembered during Remembrance Day, an opportunity I will take to remember him fondly by. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Member's Statement 211 – 5(2): In Support of Breastfeeding Mothers

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support breastfeeding mothers as they struggle to provide the best nutrition to their infants while they face other challenges in life, especially medical challenges.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues will recall that earlier in this sitting, I had asked the

Minister of Health why breastfeeding mothers were being refused as escorts when one of their other children was travelling for medical treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I have also learned that breastfeeding mothers are being told that they cannot bring their infant with them when they themselves have to travel for a medical appointment. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine has actually had to cancel her medical appointments because she has not been permitted to bring her breastfeeding infant with her.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that for some medical procedures, a mother will not be able to care for her child for a short period of time. However, it surely would not be impossible to assist that mother in finding some short-term care, a babysitter, or even a kindly volunteer to help care for her child for the short period that they must be apart.

Mr. Speaker, nothing can replace the valuable nutrition of breast milk. And nothing should interfere with the bond between a mother and her child. I find it distressing that our government, which boldly promotes the benefits of breastfeeding, is so quick to dismiss it when it is a matter of travel convenience.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Ms. Kamingoak: Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the Department of Health's review of medical travel will remove these distressing policies which discriminate against breastfeeding mothers and consider ways in which these mothers can be better supported when they or their family members need to travel to access medical services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 212 – 5(2):
Appreciation to Embassy of
Imagination**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I have people in Kimmirut in my thoughts, as they have to bury one of their family members tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my appreciation of the Embassy of Imagination. As members in the House are aware, we have a beautiful Legislative Assembly here in Nunavut and several pieces of art to make it even more beautiful exists outside the Chamber, where one can see the showing of carvings from Cape Dorset youth.

Mr. Speaker, I will name the artists who have contributed. I want colleagues to know that some pieces have already been bought, but some pieces are still for sale in case colleagues want to purchase carvings. To name the artists, they are: Ezevalu and Johnny Samayualie, Saaki Nuna, Harry Josephee, Daniel Qiatsuk, Susie and Josie Saila, Cie Taqiasuk, Joanasié Tunnillie, Salomonie Ivaluajuk, and Kevin Qimirpik.

Further, their assistants, Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson, I am very grateful to them for providing assistance to our youth in Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my appreciation, as on August 12, the art

pieces were first shown in the Legislative Assembly. There were six youth involved and they received support from the Department of Culture and Heritage and Nunavut Tourism. I want to thank them all.

The show will be on display until December 1, so please go and see them and appreciate the art pieces. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Office of the Legislative Assembly for supporting that initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 213 – 5(2):
Appreciation to All as We
Conclude Sitting**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues as this is our last day of the session.

I would like to thank the (interpretation ends) Premier, ministers, (interpretation) and my colleagues. We will not be in the same community, but we will be doing our work in our constituencies. I would also like to thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly.

The people of Iqaluit are in our thoughts as they are experiencing a devastating loss right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 214 – 5(2):
Looking Forward to Serving
Nunavummiut**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat. I am glad that you have put me here and I will keep you in mind. My wife and I will be going home tomorrow. I would like them to know that I’ll take a short trip to Naujaat on Tuesday.

When I was sitting on the other side, I had a close working relationship and now that I’m here, we are working very hard together. With my moving to the other side of the Chamber, I have full support from my ministerial colleagues. I know that we will work together on behalf of the people of Nunavut.

We are not here by ourselves and we are here representing the people of Nunavut. To make it better, Nunavut was created for us. We will represent the people of Nunavut, we will move forward, and we will be okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 215 – 5(2):
Appreciation to All as We
Conclude Sitting**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have sympathy for the people of Iqaluit. (interpretation ends) I want to applaud the first responders who have been there all evening and for their bravery and I

applaud all those who have been there all day today.

I rise today to applaud and congratulate a dear family and friend who has been an interpreter in this Assembly and just recently received an award. Please help me in applauding Mr. Allan Maksagak.

>>Applause

I would like to thank all of my colleagues for your time here and I enjoyed the debates we’ve had and the possible catastrophes, but I enjoyed it very well and I wish you all safe travels home, and to all the staff in the Assembly for all the hard work that they do.

(interpretation) Tomorrow I will kiss my grandchildren, (interpretation ends) and my heart is happy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 216 – 5(2):
Appreciation to All Nunavummiut**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the first responders, the firefighters battling it right now, and I would also like to thank the firefighters who will be arriving from Pangnirtung and Cape Dorset.

I would like the people of Iqaluit to remember that they’re consuming a lot of water right now to try to put out the

fire. (interpretation ends) We have to conserve some water, I believe, because they're going through a lot of water.

I also am thankful for the experience I am having here, challenging at times, but oh my, what an experience. I take to heart that I live in Nunavut. I am proud to be from Nunavut. It's all ours, and that's the mentality I take.

(interpretation) I will not forget the people of Iqaluit-Sinaa who put me here, but we are all working hard on the issues of housing, healthy living, education, and employment. Even when we are not here, I know that we all work hard on those issues every day. Thank you too and especially our Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions*

Return to Oral Question 232 – 5(2): Staff Housing Policy

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a return to Oral Question 232 – 5(2) asked by Mr. Lightstone, the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, on November 1, 2018 concerning the Staff Housing Policy.

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite long and contains a chart. I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into the *Hansard* for the public record and for distribution

to all members.

However, I would like to highlight and clarify two comments for the general public that are listening in to our proceedings today.

Mr. Speaker, the first question was, and I will quote Mr. Lightstone from the *Hansard*, "...the response to my written question indicated that 51 employees in the Nunavut Housing Corporation were allocated staff housing at the same time in June, according to the *Towards a Representative Public Service*, the TRPS report, 91 positions were filled, which is where I got my 56 percent of filled positions being in staff housing."

The member is correct that at the time 56 percent of NHC staff did have staff housing. Again, however, I believe that that number is misleading. I would like to point out that the NHC staff currently occupies only about 4 percent of the total territory-wide number of allocated staff housing units, that is, 51 of 1,420 allocated units.

As a comparison, the staff members at the Department of Education have 35 percent, or 497 units; Health at 21 percent, 298 units; Justice, 9 percent at 128 units. All the other departments occupy less than 9 percent of occupied units.

For smaller departments like the NHC, a small shift in staff housing occupancy can significantly impact the ratio of employees assigned a staff housing unit versus those without. For example, if I were to tell you that 60 percent of NBCC staff occupy staff housing units, it sounds pretty high, but if I were to tell you that there's only five positions, of

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Oral Question 232 – 5(2).

which three are filled, they have three units.

The second part is, and again I will quote the member's comments from the *Hansard*, "...if there is some bias given to the Nunavut Housing Corporation employees during the allocation committee meetings."

To the member asking whether there is a bias in favour of the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the allocation of units under the GN Staff Housing Policy, the answer is no. I want to ensure all members that there is no bias within the decision-making process.

The NHC follows the same process as all the other departments in submitting staff housing requests through the allocation committees. Allocation committees are made up of representatives from various departments and decisions are taken collaboratively. The NHC does not make allocation decisions unilaterally. Thank you for your time, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Oral Question 240 – 5(2):
Workplace Environment at
Nunavut Arctic College**

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by the MLA for Pangnirtung, Margaret Nakashuk, No. 240 – 5(2), asked on November 2, 2018 regarding the workplace environment at Nunavut Arctic College.

The first supplementary question reads, "Can the minister confirm how many Inuit senior or middle management staff have resigned in the last four months?"

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank the member for raising this point. As we all know, maintaining a workplace free of harassment is critical to ensuring the success of our public service.

Mr. Speaker, in response to Ms. Nakashuk's question, only one Inuk from the senior or middle management category has resigned in the last four months. At the same time I would like to point out that in the same period, Nunavut Arctic College hired six Inuit, four in the professional category and two in the senior or middle management categories.

Additionally, the human resource division within the college is not aware of any formal complaints having been filed with them in relation to any recent resignations from the college. I want to encourage employees of the Government of Nunavut, including Arctic College, who feel as though they are a subject of workplace harassment to follow due process. The human resource divisions as well as the ethics officer of the Government of Nunavut are set up to protect their interests as employees in the public service.

The final supplementary question reads, "Can the minister confirm whether or not the staff in these positions undergo probationary periods, performance evaluations, and regular assessments of their management capabilities?"

Mr. Speaker, in regard to Ms. Nakashuk's final supplementary

question on performance management, the new executive of the college has implemented the use of letters of expectation which clearly outline a senior manager's responsibilities in a given fiscal year. These letters include timelines, expectations, and objectives for program deliverables and from these letters, leaders at the college are able to create and manage the work plans for their divisions. This way, expectations are clear and senior management is accountable for maintaining the strategic direction of the college.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure all members that the Nunavut Arctic College team is working hard to provide a positive school environment for all staff and learners. This fall college staff participated in the "Ilippalialiqta PD Week," the "Positive Space Training," and they regularly celebrate social events like the welcome back BBQ for learners and families, Thanksgiving family gatherings, and more recently a Halloween party which included carving of the pumpkins.

Mr. Speaker, we believe in the guiding principles *Tunnganarniq* (fostering good spirits by being open, welcoming, and inclusive) and demonstrate this by working together for a common cause, *Piliriqatigiinniq* and *Ikajuqtiigiinniq*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize someone who rarely visits the House, but I warmly welcome my wife, Elisapee Quassa, who is finally here with me.

Further, I want to speak briefly about the fact that when I first started to attend meetings, I used to travel constantly. Today what is apparent is that my wife spends more time travelling than myself.

>> *Laughter*

Indeed, I really wish to show my gratitude as we have been together for over 39 years since we met, and our children have moved to other communities, but I am always proud of my wife as she is very resilient. I believe all of our spouses are the sources of our strength and support, so we are always grateful.

I wanted to again thank my wife, Elisapee, as she will be travelling elsewhere soon while I will remain home. That is how it seems today. I want to again thank my wife, Elisapee Malaya Kiinainnaq Quassa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unlike my colleague, I would like to recognize somebody who is here every day, a constituent of mine. I believe I first met him in the dressing room at a hockey tournament and played hockey with him. I would also like to

thank him as a constituent to bringing forward issues to me in the past. I believe one of his concerns led to one of my very first questions in this House that I ever raised.

In light of my colleague's statement today on the Emergency Management Exemplary Service Awards, I would like to take a moment to publicly thank Mr. Charlie Audlakiak for almost 30 years of service in search and rescue.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, Charlie started in the search and rescue in 1979. I was 10 years old. Some of my colleagues weren't even born yet.

>> *Laughter*

He just recently retired from it just this most recent July. I would like to take a moment for everyone for the countless operations that Charlie participated in and to take this moment to thank our Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list, so let us proceed. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 267 – 5(2): Housing Allocations and Inuit Employment

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing

Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is very much aware, Gjoa Haven has been suffering from a shortage of housing for many years, which is why I was very proud to be able to vote in favour of capital funding during our current fall sitting for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to construct ten new public housing units in the community during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate when he expects the Nunavut Housing Corporation to begin issuing tenders for the 2019-2020 construction season? 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 that question. We're now at the planning stage with issuing the tenders for the construction. We will be dealing with this as the days come within this month for issuing the tenders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question is geared towards Inuit employment. A few days ago we were in Committee of the Whole asking the same question, but our Inuit employment...they were being penalized just for being Inuk and I hope that does not happen. My question is: can the minister indicate how the Nunavut Housing Corporation will determine the Inuit employment and training

requirements for the construction of the new units in Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank him for that question. As the housing corporation, we carefully consider how we can hire more Inuit, especially when they're constructing major infrastructure. We work very hard to make sure that more Inuit are hired.

Inuit employment varies within the communities when they are constructing units. Sometimes there's a shortage of staff and they weigh how much is required. I can tell the Member for Gjoa Haven that once the contract is being issued, we're going to make sure that there are high Inuit employment numbers. This is our goal for all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I had the honour of tabling a number of the formal resolutions that were passed at the recent annual general meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

One of the resolutions addressed the important discussions that took place at the annual general meeting with Polar Knowledge Canada concerning the use of technologies in housing construction that will improve ventilation and fight

mould infestation.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe the extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation works with Polar Knowledge Canada to develop arctic-appropriate improvements in housing construction technologies? 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, my colleague. Within the housing corporation, there is a staff member who is now doing a study on housing issues. As I stated before when I was at the witness table, they always look for how we can improve the units, such as making them more fuel efficient and having better air quality. This forms the majority of their work in this area. They look at how to improve units with the help of industry experts. They use what they have learned and incorporate it into the design and construction of the units, and they keep looking for the best practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 268 – 5(2): Housekeeping and Other Issues at Tammaativvik

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health regarding the Tammaativvik Boarding Home.

Although everyone is aware of the

matter and I'm sure that this issue has been rectified, the issue that was raised is that patients sometimes return home with skin irritations. Do they clean the bedrooms? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of different training improvements have been made with staff at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, including the housekeeping. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite pleased that you have included it in the review.

This is another matter that now crops up from time to time for patients boarding at the home. I stated previously that skin irritations have occurred to patients, including those with breathing difficulties, which was my reason for asking that question.

I wonder if the Tammaativvik facility has received any renovations to date. I keep referring to the rooms, to be consistent. Patients travel down for medical appointments, but not all people are sick as some are escorts. Is the facility adhering to the (interpretation ends) building code, (interpretation) or does the facility have any renovation work scheduled or planned? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Environmental health officers do visit the facility, but again, I spoke the other day, I can't remember if it was earlier this week or last week, as the days are kind of blurring together on me, that there have been a number of improvements and acknowledgements from the leadership to the contractor running the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. They have been doing some renovations and improvements to the facility. Some of them are quite substantial, with new flooring brought in, avoiding any trip hazards, cleaning the carpets and such. There have been a number of improvements made to the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I am bringing this up is because the patients complain to me about these issues that they are experiencing. If there is a complaint in regard to Tammaativvik, can the Department of Health identify or put a notice to the patients where complaints may be submitted if any patient has them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of a complaints box *per se* in the facility, but it might be something we could take a look at. Anytime anyone has an issue, I strongly encourage people to contact patient relations or through their MLA directed to myself if necessary. I have said it often. If I don't know there is an issue,

my officials and I can't work towards finding a solution to those issues. Any feedback that we get, both negative and positive, is appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 269 – 5(2): Proposed Medical Facility for Rankin Inlet

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Since it's our last day and we will see each other in 2019, (interpretation) I thank the people of Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet and also my husband who is watching the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) I wanted to ask the Minister of Health and this is a joke. Due to the health of the polar bears, can we get an unrestricted quota for medical purposes research?

>>*Laughter*

On a serious note, I understand and recognize that across Nunavut there is a need for medical health services, that there are plans to establish the medical health facility in Rankin Inlet. However, these plans have been in existence for quite a few years and it has not been progressing.

Can the minister clarify if there is a time frame that exists for the proposed medical health facility in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be the first to acknowledge that this discussion has been ongoing for a number of years, but this is the first time that the federal government has also acknowledged the need to have a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. I'm very positive in how the discussions are progressing right now. There actually is action going on behind the scenes.

I don't have a definitive timeline that I can provide the member, but I can assure the member that for the first time we've actually got the acknowledgement and recognized need, and there are discussions ongoing with NIHB and Health Canada to open a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm curious and I thank the minister for his response. Is there funding that is coming from the NIHB, or what's the situation with regard to the medical health facility? Is there a feasibility study that has been completed or has not been completed or just discussions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickers.

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned and as the member is very aware, there have been discussions for a number of years of establishing boarding homes in Rankin Inlet as well as Cambridge Bay. The need has been identified and it is covered through Health Canada. NIHB

covers and helps us establish the rates that we get reimbursed for. As I have mentioned in the past, it is a federal program that we administer on behalf of the federal government, but all of the boarding home rates are established in partnership with Health Canada. It's their funding that would be going to support a boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has been referring to a boarding home. I'm referring to the mental health facility, which we have been hearing about, that is coming into existence in Rankin Inlet for a number of years, not the boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My sincere apologies to the member; I misunderstood the question.

With regard to the mental health facility, one of the former members for Rankin Inlet repeatedly brought up the need for elder care and converting a mental health facility that was in existence in Rankin Inlet. It was identified a few years back that any renovations that would be needed to bring that infrastructure up to today's standards would be too expensive, so it was decided at that point that it was more cost efficient to actually build a new facility. That facility will be upcoming on capital plans.

It has been in discussions again. When

we talk of mental health issues across the north, this government has been very clear that elders, mental health, and addictions, those types of infrastructure are needed in the territory.

Again I apologize. I don't have a specific timeline and I apologize I wasted the member's first two questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 270 – 5(2): Municipal Legislation

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the issue of municipal legislation.

As the minister will recall, I wrote to him this summer with respect to the issue of requirements that are currently contained in both the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* as well as the *Hamlets Act* in respect to business compliance with the *Workers' Compensation Act*.

As the minister will also recall, concerns have been raised by the City of Iqaluit about the impact that these current requirements have on small businesses.

In his reply to my correspondence, the minister wrote that his department has "initiated a review of both the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* as well as the *Hamlets Act*. This will include a review of the business licensing section." Can the minister update me today on the status of this review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. With respect to his question about the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* and the *Hamlets Act*, many communities have asked why small businesses need to pay a fee to get a licence. Our review is ongoing and I think it should be completed in the next coming days, but we are working on it, as was stated in my correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister highlight what other areas of the legislation are currently being reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I can't highlight at the moment what the others are, but there are a number of other things we are looking at in that review and they will definitely be outlined once our review is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Question 271 – 5(2): Solid Waste Management

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Speaker. I usually don't take off my glasses, but I happened to have them off just now.

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that the minister will concur with me with respect to local garbage dumps in our communities and other areas for different waste products. This is becoming a more pressing issue and more concerns are being expressed about them today. I expect he would fully agree with that.

Recently a couple of months ago the minister's department requested a request for proposals. One was issued recently for Igloolik's solid waste management area as part of the waste management feasibility studies in Nunavut for various communities. Igloolik was listed as one of these communities and the RFP for Igloolik recently closed on October 9, 2018, which is almost a month ago today.

Can the minister confirm that the contract has been awarded and if he will provide a copy of the study results to the community mayors where the study took place and to the Legislative Assembly upon the completion of the study? I hope my question is clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Quassa for that question. Yes, the work

is commencing on that front, and we anticipate that the study will commence this month in Igloolik in the waste management site. The study will begin in the short term and definitely during this month. Further, the study is scheduled for completion around May next year.

After completion of this study and with the findings of the study written into a report along with recommendations, it is absolutely given that we would share this with the mayor of Igloolik and the MLAs about this study after its completion and where we go as a result of the study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Igloolik participate in an annual community cleanup in the spring and I want to take this opportunity to applaud my constituents who have made efforts to keep the community clean and beautiful. However, we recognize that long-term solutions to solid waste management will require planning and investment. Can the minister confirm if his department is considering the use of modern incinerator technology in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do agree with my colleague, but I thank him for making that statement. I do concur that we want all of Nunavut to be just as beautiful as beautiful Baker Lake.

>> *Laughter*

With respect to local cleanups, this is conducted every spring and summer.

Mr. Speaker, ways on how Nunavut's waste management sites can have less windblown debris and thereby less garbage on the land are included in these studies, as well as what is becoming a more common option: incinerators in the communities. They look at what size incinerator would best serve the community and, if one is required, which type. Yes, these are included when we conduct waste management site studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll speak in English for the last question. (interpretation ends) The department's request for proposals includes that "Igloolik has no fencing, berm, or lining for its dumpsite. Household waste is burned weekly depending on wind direction. There's a concern about smoke reaching the residential area. There's a section for bulk metals and lined hazardous waste areas, but there's no capture of landfill runoff. The current storage is inadequate since it's not preventing harmful substances from entering the water runoff."

Can the minister provide a timetable for when work will begin to address these deficiencies? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier when we started talking about the solid waste management study in Igloolik, what he just quoted will be part of the report. It's obvious that there is a need for fencing. When it rains in the spring, it starts seeping into the ground. It should not be contaminated. Would they put a liner in to prevent seepage? Hazardous waste should be properly stored. All those issues will be within the report and I think we all expect that. Those will be included in the study and it will also state how the deficiencies should be addressed. "This is what needs to be done and this is a timetable for the work to be done. These should be priority areas," and I expect those kinds of things in the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 272 – 5(2): Polar Bear Hides and Auctions

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, in our spring sitting, I think I asked about this issue and I will reiterate my question here.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that the communities send out their furs, I don't know, maybe to overseas or to auction sites, especially the polar bear hides. They send them out to be sold at auctions. I had questions on the status of selling skins. The hunters who send out the furs are forced to wait for long

periods, especially for polar bear hides.

What is the status today? The last time I asked questions, the response to my question was that the auction will be held in the springtime. Can the minister update us on whether there have been auctions for the furs that had been sent out? 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, Mr. Keyootak, for your question. In the spring of 2018 there were 330 hides and only seven of them were sold. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some hunters have been waiting for a very long time to get something back for the furs that they sent away. Some have to wait for years. Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain to us when the next auction will be held? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this time I do not have a date as to when the next auction will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated to us that only a very few polar bear hides have been sold. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide information to the MLAs as to which communities' polar bear hides have been sold? It is regarding the few hides that the minister said that were bought. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The seven polar bear pelts that I mentioned, I don't have that level of information for the member, but I'm sure my department can provide that for him in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 273 – 5(2): Support for Elders

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, our elders in our communities are one of our most valuable assets. They are the keepers of our cultural legacies. They are the teachers of our traditional skills and knowledge. They are our strongest link to our heritage and our history. It is important that we support them in their efforts and to their contributions.

The Department of Culture and Heritage

recently issued a call for applications and proposals for projects that promote, protect, [preserve], and revitalize culture, language, arts, and heritage of Nunavut.

Can the minister confirm that his department has contacted all of the elder committees and elder societies across Nunavut to ensure that they are aware of this call for proposals and whether or not his officials provide assistance for the elders to draft the necessary proposals and applications for their grants and contributions? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. The culture and heritage grants and contributions pot in total, the entire budget, is at \$7 million. To date we have awarded \$6.6 million through elder programs or cultural and language, all sorts of programs through this.

We always try our best to inform the communities as much as possible when there are any types of opportunities. We do these by way of either public service announcements, the local GLO offices can share these types of information, and again, we do have the 1-866-934-2034 number and a dedicated email address for grants and contributions, which is chfunds@gov.nu.ca.

I would encourage, if there is any specific elder group or other community organizations seeking funds, to contact our department and we will try our best to support their proposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. The members of the Kugluktuk Elders Committee are involved in a great number of events and activities. I think it is safe to say that their dedication to promoting, [preserving], and revitalizing our culture, language, and heritage is unwavering. I also feel that it is important that they be recognized and compensated for the efforts that they contribute.

Can the minister clarify whether the grants and contributions available from his department can be used to provide honorariums for elders to reimburse them for the time they spend on these important activities? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. In terms of honorarium, I would have to get back to the member, but we do, like I said, try our best to support local groups and community organizations like grassroots in their pitches to get funding through Culture and Heritage. Yes, I will have to get back to the member on her specific question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the grants and contributions process may not be best

suited to include honorariums for our elders. Will the minister commit to establishing a fund from which the elders who contribute so much of their time and energy to their community's elder committees or societies can receive honorariums for their important involvement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. I do agree that our elders and community members who provide different types of service or offerings regarding our culture, heritage, and language have a lot to offer. In terms of how we recognize and/or compensate them is another thing. I'll take her comments into consideration and we will see if we can work out... I'll have to also speak with my colleagues on if there's even consistency with regard to elder honorarium within the GN. We will take those into account. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 274 – 5(2): Workplace Harassment

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

Every one of our employees within the Nunavut government is the subject of my query.

Mr. Speaker, we all know of government workers wherever they may work, in our

schools, in our health centres, or in any other government position and they need a safe office environment.

Mr. Speaker, we all agree on the need for workers to be free from harassment, from bullying, and not be bothered while working. We want them to have a safe work environment. Nonetheless, I have been apprised by people who have experienced harassment in their workplaces. I don't wish to delve into the details here, so perhaps I can whittle it down in English as an (interpretation ends) ugly incident (interpretation) in my estimation, which is an unacceptable situation.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister explain whether there is a noticeable trend in terms of incidents of violence and/or intimidation of civil servants in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate the member asking this question. It's an important issue. There have been a number of discussions around this House and out in the public on harassment in the workplace. Mr. Speaker, by far, the incidents of harassment to employees from community members far exceeds the amount of complaints that we get.

Just to give an example directly to the member's question, in the last two years there has been a little over 100 complaints. Mr. Speaker, just from last April 1 to the end of September of this year there were 58, so I would say there is a trend and it's not in a good direction.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. If this is getting worse, I'm very concerned about it and I do not like it. I recognize that it's unacceptable in its context.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister provide any further details? I realize that when personnel are involved, you can't get too detailed, but in terms of the types of incidents that are being seen and which departments, further information if possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some recent statistics that I can share with the member, my colleagues, and the public is during recent exit interview surveys, 47 percent of the people who left employment of the GN did not feel safe in the workplace at some point. Mr. Speaker, when we look at the different statistics, as the member mentioned, out of those just a little over 100 incidents that have taken place, 50 percent were of them were of a verbal or threatening manner.

What worries me the most, and like my member colleague, is 27 percent of those were actual physical confrontations or physical assaults. That's very worrisome to me when we're trying to provide a safe place for employees to work in and retention of our employees and attraction. Word gets around. People in different professions speak to one

another. I, like all of us, want Nunavut to be the employer of choice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I share the minister's concerns and in terms of recruitment and retention, I think we all know those are problems already.

I guess my last question is: what actions will the minister be taking or will the government be taking to ensure that government employees do have a safe workplace going forward?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the steps that we've had to take, we have assistance lines available for help for our staff, mental health support, sick leave, long-term disability, but those are the things that we don't want to have to initiate. We've had to put alarms like physical security, security glass, security guards in some of our facilities.

As far as an action, the biggest thing that I can suggest that all of us have a part to play in this is communicating in our communities how it's not acceptable. Many of us that are on social media, I'm not, but I have seen posts in social media or even personal public confrontations with staff, belittling or calling somebody out on Facebook. You're not going to resolve your issue.

Follow the proper processes. Contact whether it be the department involved or some supervisor that might be involved or even through us. When we have a constituent that brings a complaint forward to us, help direct them to the proper way of making a complaint and really disapprove the process of confrontations, whether it be verbal or otherwise.

When we work together, I have often expressed to staff... We've had a number of different concerns to elaborate a little bit on the member's earlier question within Justice, within the Department of Health, with Family Services, with income support workers, members of the RCMP. There are a number of different focal points. It's too general right now. When I talk of verbal abuse, a lot of our cases even go unreported. It has almost become normalized, which worries me, Mr. Speaker.

When we are trying to follow statistics on how to move forward and address certain instances, we need to know when these types of situations occur and we all need to take a part in it, in all of our communities and working to help direct people to the proper process to find solutions or answers to their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 275 – 5(2): Conservation Officer for Pangnirtung

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the (interpretation ends)

Minister of Finance.

(interpretation) I asked this question in the last sitting regarding the lack of a conservation officer in Pangnirtung. It is exactly the same question that my colleague brought up about having no conservation officers. Can the minister give us an update on when Pangnirtung will be getting a conservation officer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we talk about employment in the department, the Department of Finance is coordinating a centralized department to assist departments in their staffing and competitions. I wouldn't have that level of detail on a departmental staffing action from the Department of Environment, I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had also brought this up to the Minister of Environment and following that response, the position is currently being reviewed. If the conservation officer is going to be a supervisor, it's at a different scale. The position has been vacant since April 2017 and we get temporary conservation officers.

I'm directing this question as a concern to the (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance (interpretation) because those positions could be filled by Inuit. The

only reason they're not getting filled by Inuit is because they don't have the required certification. A lot of Inuit men are hunters who know the land very well and well qualified to fill those positions. This was also brought up by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

One of the many challenges Inuit face is that they don't have the required qualifications. I would like to ask the (interpretation ends) Department of Finance (interpretation) minister when he's going to start taking out those challenges so we can fill those positions without running into artificial barriers regarding the conservation officer position.

I would like to direct this question to the minister: (interpretation ends) how does the minister foresee the Department of HR to ensure Inuit employment will increase and provide better support for Inuit employees? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question and how it was directed. Again, with regarding to the environment position, I won't be able to comment on, but with regard to the rest of her question, I welcome the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at hiring across the territory and through our job evaluation function, we set minimum requirements for jobs. The reason being in a lot of especially our service-oriented positions, as residents of Nunavut and our constituents, we all expect a certain level of service. We need to make sure

that we have people who are qualified to do the job.

There are exceptions or accommodations that can be made from a skill set. We've had prior learning assessment recognition programs through Nunavut Arctic College where you can sit down and help somebody go through a resumé where a lot of the skill sets that they may not recognize as leadership or building or understanding may not be on a piece of paper, but we do look at ways to recognize the skills that people do bring to the table.

Departments have opportunities for casual staffing actions to see how somebody could fit into a role and training opportunities right now through EIA and some through the Department of Finance, soon to be amalgamated into the Department of Human Resources, to really focus on Inuit employment training opportunities and partnerships. I thank the member for that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. It is interesting to hear that there's going to be on-the-job training available and I'm sure that hasn't happened yet because our conservation officer position is still vacant. The minister indicated that there are exceptions for government employment. Do exceptions still apply? If it did, that position would have been filled by now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again just going back to the specific position in conservation, I don't know the details and the level of requirements for the position. My comments were more general across the board where you may have somebody who doesn't even understand how much computer skills they have because they help do a couple of program courses or something or that they may have never have taken a course but they're quite proficient in some of the computer skills in that regard.

When you look at mechanics, when somebody is doing some minor mechanics in a hamlet office or municipality, when you look at the skills that people have with their hands, they may not have a piece of paper that says that they can do that, but there's recognition that those skills are there. I'm using that as an example to look at a lot of different skills that people bring to the table.

On teaching, how many people do we know have taught their children how to skin a caribou or build an igloo or build a shed? There are a lot of skills that people don't realize that they have when they're doing their resumé. Those are the types of things that I'm trying to acknowledge that there are a lot of hidden skills that people themselves don't recognize they have and until they sit down and put it to practise, that gives them an opportunity to really fulfill some career objectives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq.

Question 276 – 5(2): Issues with Boarding Homes

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't think I was going to get my turn...

>> *Laughter*

...but I'm happy now.

Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the same minister queried by my colleague for Arviat, albeit it may be the opposite end of the spectrum as I see it, so I will direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, in our home community I have heard from several individuals on more than one occasion where patients complained about not being fed properly, but personally I don't know if that is the case. I am bringing this up based on what I have heard from members of my constituency.

There have been some complaints about having to use plastic cutlery and utensils, such as knives, forks, and spoons, and also about having to bring their own cutlery to use. Now, I wonder if the minister can elaborate on the policies followed by the regional boarding homes regarding the provision of plastic cutlery and whether the minister can outline that policy for my benefit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have often said it's a

contracted service that we have with the boarding homes other than one.

That being said, there is a level of expectation from the level of service that we expect our contractors to provide and if there are ever concerns, I have said it many times and I will continue to, let me know when there is an issue identified so that I can have my officials look into the concern and what types of solutions can be looked at. We don't have an established policy.

We do have people who work with boarding homes on the dietary needs, making sure that healthy foods are chosen. With regard to utensils, I don't know if there is a direct policy, but I would think that most facilities would have dishwashing equipment that they would be able to provide real utensils. I appreciate the member's question and I can have officials look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister, who will be directing the question to his officials and for answering my next question. This will be my last question.

Mr. Speaker, the medical clients shouldn't have to go hungry, as they require the proper nutrition in order to start healing from their illness while on travel attending to medical appointments away from home.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister about what types of plans he has in regard to the foods that are served

and the kind of utensils the boarding homes offer to their medical patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I had mentioned, I'll have my officials follow up with the member's concerns to take a look at one, the menu. As the member very well put, when people are away and they are in a healing phase of their medical travel, they need healthy food for their bodies to help recover. That's all I can say at this point, Mr. Speaker.

Like I have often said, if there are any concerns, please make me or Patient Relations aware of them so that we can help address any concerns that patients may have. Thank you.

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

Question 277 – 5(2): Housing for Teachers

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, access to staff housing in our communities is prioritized. Sometimes it is unclear how that prioritization takes place. The Gjoa Haven District Education Authority has expressed concerns that the staff housing made available near the school, which was promised to teachers, was allocated to health staff instead.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify whether or not he has received a copy of correspondence from the Gjoa Haven District Education Authority dated May 17, 2018 on this matter and, if so, what steps have been taken to address the concern? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, I receive hundreds of letters and I can't say that I recall it or don't recall it. That was a few months ago. I would have to check back on my files to see if in fact I did receive it and where it is at the moment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Chairperson of the Gjoa Haven District Education Authority wrote a letter on May 17, 2018 regarding the housing situation for teachers in Gjoa Haven. Instead of teachers being allocated the renovated units near the school as promised, they have been placed in units up town, a considerable distance away from the workplace. Unlike health staff, the teachers do not have a vehicle to get to work and, especially when the weather is bad, they struggle to get to work.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain how staff housing allocations, especially for health and education positions, take into account the proximity to their workplace? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in previous statements, there is a committee that's struck. I believe that HR is part of the HR staff. Justice, Education, Health, and a member of the Nunavut Housing Corporation are on that committee. They're the committee that outlines which houses are available for staff housing.

As for whether they decide if a teacher is going to be closer to the school or not or which house they're going to be in, I don't have that level of detail, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first started with the government, I lived up town, which is about three-quarters of a mile away and at that time I didn't have any vehicles, so I always walked to work and walked back home. Sometimes the weather is very severe, severe enough to get frostbites on your face just walking up.

Mr. Speaker, the allocation of housing can have a big impact on a community's ability to recruit and retain staff. When staff housing units are given to staff from other departments, teachers who don't even know each other may be forced to share a home and this can be very uncomfortable at times.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to reconsidering how the staff housing units are allocated in the community of

Gjoa Haven to ensure that the teachers can be housed closer to the school and have the option of whether or not to share their unit with another teacher? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have thousands of staff across Nunavut who are in houses that may be at the total opposite end of where they are employed. We have people who would love to be in staff housing, whether it is a quarter of a mile away or right next door to where they work.

Mr. Speaker, we have a housing allotment committee that decides which houses are available for any given position. I don't believe that they try to put public works employees near the public works office and so on and so forth, but I'm sure that they take many things into consideration.

I could look into if they're going to move teachers closer to the school, but there is a committee that looks at those and reviews those, not just for Gjoa Haven but all the other communities we have in Nunavut that are in staff housing. I'm sure that they review this process. One of the things that they try to do is to try to ensure that people aren't bunking and sharing units that don't want to. In some cases there are staff who want to share units for reasons I don't know, but they are there.

I'm sure that the committee that reviews and looks at staff housing allocations and policies will take a look at this in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My fellow members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Mr. Main.

Motion 022 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried and question period is extended for another 30 minutes starting now.

Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Question 278 – 5(2): Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in Practice

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for acknowledging me again. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Family Services.

First of all, when I was at home and I was watching the televised proceedings, I was very proud of the Department of Family Services for working very hard and it became evident how hard they were working. I just wanted to make that comment first.

Mr. Speaker, as we are aware as Members of the Legislative Assembly,

we took on pieces of legislation grandfathered by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Some of these pieces of legislation are now being amended to make sure that they adhere to the territory of Nunavut. As I stated before, some of the old legislation was grandfathered from the Northwest Territories.

The *Child and Family Services Act* is outdated. Perhaps it was grandfathered from the Northwest Territories as the *Social Services Act*. For that reason, I would like to ask the minister if the *Child and Family Services Act* is following the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* principles. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our colleague for asking that question. It's a very important issue and I know that the Department of Family Services works very hard together to deal with these issues. In the amendment of the legislation, I know it is evident that we have to use and consider *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* daily. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Notwithstanding that, our fellow Inuit use this traditional knowledge obviously since social interactions form a large part of our traditional knowledge base, which is also quite considerable. With respect to

income support recipients or families, this has a large impact and Nunavummiut deal with these issues every day.

Now, regarding the legislation and its intrusion into Inuit lives, does the minister believe that the *Child and Family Services Act* is following *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles? Is this connected to Inuit cultural principles? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's evident that we are using it because I know that since I became a minister, we talk about the children who have been apprehended that should be brought home. I can even say that the federal government is looking at the (interpretation ends) child first legislation. (interpretation) At this time I am concerned about what implications that would have on our legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my final question, as you just stated. We say that as a government, we utilize *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles or Inuit societal values and that was our goal back in 1999.

This legislation, as we hear from our people, is not using Inuit traditional knowledge. The legislation we have in place now separates the family. Social services and mental health are under the

legislation. It seems like they segregate and separate the family. However, when using Inuit knowledge, they want everybody to go back rather than separating. They work on keeping the family together.

With that, I would like to ask the minister if she can commit to considering that this legislation be amended, if the minister is willing to consider the amendment to the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my officials and I have been discussing this matter and that we definitely need to review it because the way we operate and the way we do things are two different things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 279 – 5(2): Polar Bear Quotas for Scientific Purposes

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for acknowledging me again. I was talking about the polar bear management issues earlier, so therefore my next question will be directed to the Minister of Environment regarding that.

How shall I ask? There's an international organization that identifies particular species at risk in the marine environment. There is also an international polar bear management committee. The first body is called

(interpretation ends) the International Whaling Commission, (interpretation) where it states that Inuit are the aboriginal people and we have the harvesting rights.

I was very proud to see within the statement that for aboriginal people, they have a government, and in this case the Japanese people used that statement for small whales, when the Japanese aboriginal people were forced to stop harvesting. I'm just doing my preamble, Mr. Speaker, for your information. Japanese people were asked not to harvest whales. They stated that they had the Ainu aboriginal people who can harvest up to 600 whales for the health of the people, scientific reasons, and medical research. They continue to harvest the whales.

However, I wanted to clearly outline polar bear management. I want to ask the minister one question: does the minister know that if there's a quota set aside with that global organization for polar bears who state that the polar bears are being threatened? Can Inuit use that same principle to cull the polar bear population to look at medicinal properties by hiring a specialist to see if it is feasible?

This is what I would state:
(interpretation ends) does the minister know or is aware whether or not there has been a quota set aside for polar bears for medical or scientific research under the international polar bear management? 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. Towtongie, for your question. Unfortunately we don't have that kind of information at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for that response. Under the risk analysis for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, I'm assuming that there should be consideration so the quotas for polar bears can increase for Inuit harvesters so that this type of research, scientific research, medical research, can be conducted. As I was relying on Inuit IQ, how polar bear was used to cure certain illnesses, and I haven't seen that anywhere. That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As stated earlier today, I mentioned that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be meeting here in Iqaluit next week and those types of discussions will take place.

As for your question, we don't have that kind of information for IQ regarding using polar bear hides for medical purposes, but I'm sure that the elders who will be participating in the meetings would be able to give that kind of knowledge and information to the representatives who will be attending those meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 280 – 5(2): Funding Food Programs for Schools

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education regarding food security and how they affect the children in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, as I have asked earlier in this sitting, we do know many of our dedicated school faculty volunteer their time to organize the breakfast programs in our schools. My first question is: what support does the Department of Education provide, either financially or administratively, to help feed the hungry students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Our department is committed to supporting initiatives that alleviate food insecurity and collaborating with other organizations and set our students up for success. Oftentimes school staff and community members volunteer to support breakfast programs. Funding from third party organizations as well as GN-funded community health may also provide funding for hiring staff for breakfast programs, as well as in most cases programs that are sponsored by local municipalities through financial support such as Brighter Futures. These are some of the ways we support breakfast programs and we want to continue in our efforts. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that the department does support those initiatives, but I don't believe I heard an exact answer as to how the department supports financially or administratively to help fund those breakfast programs.

Last June during the Committee of the Whole review of the operations and maintenance budget of the Department of Education, a number of members voiced concerns regarding food insecurity in Nunavut and the high number of students who do go hungry in our schools.

My question is: has the minister put in a request for consideration during the development of the three-year forecast and the 2019-2020 operations and maintenance budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. We are working with the Department of Health, which is in the process of developing a Nunavut-specific school food and beverage policy and that would be in line with national recommendations. Again, currently we are following the Government of Nunavut's nutrition guidelines that have been set up since 2012, I believe, for school programs and government-funded food initiatives.

In terms of his question, if I have submitted a specific line item for the coming fiscal year, we have not done that to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Food insecurity is a very pressing issue. There are way too many starving students in our schools. I'm glad that the department is working on policies regarding food and beverages in schools, but I would like to request that the minister commit to putting in a request to create a food program in our territory and commit to putting forward that request before the end of the Fifth Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. There are many breakfast programs that we deliver out of most if not all of our schools. While my department does not directly fund breakfast programs, where funding is inadequate, school staff and community members volunteer their time, fundraise, and prepare breakfast on a daily basis. It's currently not considered a duty of a teacher, but they do it anyway and we're very thankful for that.

We will consider what the member is requesting moving forward. With many pressing issues across the government, I'll talk with my colleagues on this and hope to report back to the House with

some good news in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 281 – 5(2): Capital Planning Process

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I rise to ask my question to the Minister of Finance. I think I am obsessed with finances today and I am unsure why that is.

Mr. Speaker, earlier I provided some thoughts on how the capital planning process could be improved. Regarding the document provided, (interpretation ends) the GN capital planning process, (interpretation) and in going through the details within, it outlines how the capital planning process will play out.

It takes many years to follow the capital planning process, but it starts out at the beginning with the (interpretation ends) Financial Management Board. I'm asking this question to the Minister of Finance because the minister chairs the Financial Management Board. When was the last time that this capital planning process was updated or changed in any substantial way? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to that document, I'm not aware of... I'm sure it has a date on there when it came into effect. The latest update to the process that I can go

off the cuff on is the preplanning process.

It was part of the discussions that we had in Committee of the Whole on how the preplanning dollars that we allocate, I believe, was \$1.5 million that were just approved to preplan so that we have more accurate numbers on different projects that are in the scope of what type of capital projects we're looking at investing in. That gives us more leverage to help expedite the process when it comes time to the actual planning phase of a project. 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. Right here in this handbook it says on the first page, which is useful for new MLAs such as me, "Capital projects are important to effectively meet the government's mandate..." We have a mandate? Oh, okay. "...and are an important part of the economic development of the territory." Oh, okay. I have a huge amount of unemployed people in my constituency. Okay, so capital projects are important.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned in my member's statement a number of areas that I feel could be made better. I choose to speak positively because I think that together we can improve things in this process. The scoping, the options analysis that is done at the very early stage of projects, of course Inuit employment levels, I mentioned, how we partner with the private sector, including maybe Inuit development corporations, and how we work with municipalities.

My second question with regard to the GN capital planning process: does the minister agree that improvements can be made in these areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everything we do could use improvements. We're constantly updating practices on a number of different fronts.

With regard to the capital planning process, there's a lot of work done with the community and government services department, starting right from the municipalities, from the hamlets bringing forward infrastructure projects that they would like to see come forth from their community, and then a committee sits down and we go through the process using different criteria, including the mandate and direction of the government.

There has been a lot of talk for Inuit employment in the last couple of days. I just want to highlight that the fact is when targets are set, those are minimum requirements of a contractor to provide and any time there's an opportunity to increase those targets, it's in the best interest of the contractor; less food and housing that they have to provide.

We have apprenticeship opportunities that we promote through the Department of Family Services' Apprenticeship Division to any number of contracts that come out, both small and large. There are different levels of involvement at different stages from people in the community, people within Community

and Government Services.

As well, I think, even more importantly the member mentioned the investment side of things. I have often stated and I have often used that term in a number of responses that when we expend money, it's an investment. We are expecting to get some recovery from that, whether it be social or revenue generation or avenue to save money. There are a number of different factors that go into our capital plan, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for that response. Although I do respect the decision, there is a lot of work that goes in to date.

Speaking for many of my constituents, people are not satisfied with the status quo, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't elected to come here to Iqaluit to preserve the status quo. When you look at the area of Inuit employment, you have Inuit workers in my own constituency, to use an example, seeking employment with a company that has been contracted by the government, where the company that's contracted is employing workers who do not have a good grasp of the English language, let alone Inuktitut.

It makes me scratch my head and think what we are doing if, on the one hand, we're expecting these companies to employ as many Inuit and local people as possible. On the other hand, when we're evaluating the bids and contracts, I don't know; I guess language isn't a consideration there.

I could give other examples. There's the recent example of the new jail here and the Inuit employment levels. There's also the large infrastructure project here, the port, and the Inuit employment levels. I don't want to say that the process is broken, but I feel strongly that it needs improvement.

I would like the minister to commit to taking a serious look at recalibrating and making some changes to this capital planning process to make it better for Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I echo the member's concerns. We have a lot of communities that are struggling with employment opportunities. We have a lot of communities where there are limited employment opportunities.

Whenever we have a project, small or large, like I stated earlier, of an infrastructure project, construction projects, or anything else that's going on in a community, there needs to be a strong emphasis on Inuit employment. That's where we work closely with NTI through the NNI Registry list on companies that are different levels of Inuit employment, for one. We do have, through our NNI Policy, quite stringent penalties for people who don't meet the minimum requirements.

As an added incentive for any contractor to promote local and Inuit employment, the Apprenticeship Division within

Family Services works with apprentices to help people move around from some projects to make sure they get their hours in so that they're meeting not just the academic side of their apprenticeship needs, but to make sure that they're getting the hours of actually hands-on participation in a project.

Too often we have heard rumours and anecdotal stories of people being paid to stay home so that their Inuit employment numbers are meeting the necessary needs. We have project managers through Community and Government Services that go to these project sites that look at who is participating in the workforce or through the NNI, there's an evaluation of the income dollars that come directly to Inuit people.

Can we do more? Our struggle every day is to make sure that we're promoting Inuit employment, but we have to continue to work together and work with our partners and our contractors to promote and have people who are willing and able to go to work and contribute to development in their own community.

There's nothing more proud than when I visited communities with a new project that have I spoken to a plant operator in Qikiqtarjuaq when I was there that was involved in the process of the power plant being built all the way through. There's nothing more rewarding than to hear of the local employees, especially the Inuit labour side of things on how proud they are of helping to build a health centre in a community that, when I'm doing a tour, they did this portion of the construction.

There's a lot of pride that we need to

continue to encourage in all of our employees across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 282 – 5(2): Wolf Population Survey

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

I want to revisit the issue of wolf populations in the Kitikmeot. I appreciate the minister's commitment that she made yesterday to review her department's Fur Assessment and Advance Program and Fall Incentive Program. Can she provide a timeline today for how long this review will take? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Ms. Kamingoak, for your question. Unfortunately I don't have that information for you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. The minister also represents a Kitikmeot constituency and I know she understands the importance of this issue. Will she commit to meeting with the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization to

discuss this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately I can't commit because, as of tomorrow, I will no longer be the Minister of Environment, but I am sure that you can ask the next Minister of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the next minister will commit to meeting with my local HTO.

My next question is, the issue of wolf populations in the Kitikmeot also involve our neighbours in the Northwest Territories. I believe that it is important for Nunavut and the NWT to coordinate their policies and actions in this area. Has the minister discussed this issue with her NWT counterpart and, if she has, can she describe what they decided? 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. Unfortunately I have not been in discussions with the NWT government regarding the wolf populations in our region. I'm sure that the new minister will work towards that, and I would be willing to help you as the

Kitikmeot is our constituency and to work with the Minister of Environment so that our issues and concerns are raised regarding our wolf population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, please note that the time for question period has expired and, as you have already extended it, you definitely will not extend it again. Therefore we will proceed with the orders of the day. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 014 – 5(2): Public Service Statistics

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of the Government of Nunavut's human resource capacity has been raised numerously, as the vacancy rate has remained stagnant for a number of years.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Annual Report has shown an increase in long-term casuals. Just recently one of my constituents had reached their seventh year of continuous service as a casual, for instance.

Mr. Speaker, in order to encourage the government to address the situation, I would like to request the following public service statistics to identify any areas of concern.

Mr. Speaker, my question is quite detailed; I would like to enter it as read.

- 1) With respect to the 3,506.66 "filled positions" that are referenced on

page 3 of the September 30, 2018 edition of the Government of Nunavut's *Towards a Representative Public Service* quarterly report, and broken down by community and employing entity (department, Crown agency and/or territorial corporation):

- a. How many positions were filled on an indeterminate basis by employees who are Nunavut Inuit?
- b. How many positions were filled on an indeterminate basis by employees who are not Nunavut Inuit?
- c. How many positions were filled on a term basis by Nunavut Inuit?
- d. How many positions were filled on a term basis by employees who are not Nunavut Inuit?
- e. How many positions were filled on a casual basis by employees who are Nunavut Inuit?
- f. How many positions referred to in question 1(e) were filled by employees with less than one year of continuous service in the position?
- g. How many positions referred to in question 1(e) were filled by employees with one to five years of continuous service in the position?
- h. How many positions referred to in question 1(e) were filled by employees with more than five

years of continuous service in the position?

- i. How many positions were filled on a casual basis by employees who are not Nunavut Inuit?
 - j. How many positions referred to in question 1(i) were filled by employees with less than one year of continuous service?
 - k. How many positions referred to in question 1(i) were filled by employees with one to five years of continuous service?
 - l. How many positions referred to in question 1(i) were filled by employees with more than five years of continuous service?
- 2) With respect to the 447.0 casual positions filled by Nunavut Inuit employees that are referred to on page 23 of the September 30, 2018 edition of the Government of Nunavut's *Towards a Representative Public Service* quarterly report, and broken down by community and employing entity (department, Crown agency and/or territorial corporation):
- a. How many of the positions were filled by employees with less than one year of continuous service?
 - b. How many of the positions were filled by employees with one year of continuous service, two years of continuous service, three years of continuous service, and four years of continuous service, respectively?

- c. How many of the positions were filled by employees with more than five years of continuous service?
- 3) With respect to the 440.0 casual positions filled by employees who are not Nunavut Inuit that are referred to on page 23 of the September 30, 2018 edition of the Government of Nunavut's *Towards a Representative Public Service* quarterly report, and broken down by community and employing entity (department, Crown agency and/or territorial corporation):
- a. How many of the positions were filled by employees with less than one year of continuous service?
- b. How many of the positions were filled by employees with one year of continuous service, two years of continuous service, three years of continuous service, and four years of continuous service, respectively?
- c. How many of the positions were filled by employees with more than five years of continuous service?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, do you agree that the written question be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written Questions. Member for Arviat

North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Written Question 015 – 5(2):
Operations of Community Health Centres**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a written question prepared for the Department of Health.

Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention and also to my colleagues' attention that health centres are sometimes open for emergency only. This is a designation that is used in some communities more than others. This is with the understanding that health care services are essential for all Nunavummiut.

I will read this question out. It's quite short. Title: Community Health Centre Closures.

- 1) With respect to the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 (to date) fiscal years:
- a. On how many occasions during each fiscal year were community health centres in Nunavut closed during regular business hours to non-emergency patients for a period of time exceeding 24 hours?
- b. In which community or communities did the closures occur?
- c. What was the approximate length of each closure?
- d. What was the primary reason for each closure?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Written Question 016 – 5(2):
Administration of the Municipal
Funding Program**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have another written question here. It's directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services. It's regarding the administration of the Municipal Funding Program.

Mr. Speaker, this funding program is very important for Nunavut's municipalities.

The question is, I would say, medium-level detailed, but I would like to enter it into the record as read.

- 1) With respect to the 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 fiscal years:
 - a. What was the municipal funding formula for each fiscal year?
 - b. What was the equalization grant formula for each fiscal year?
 - c. What was the amount of contribution funding provided during each fiscal year to each non-tax-based municipal corporation in Nunavut under the Municipal Funding Program?
 - d. What was the amount of funding provided to the City of Iqaluit during each fiscal year as an equalization grant?

- e. Within the meaning of the Municipal Funding Formula that is detailed in subsections 2(a), 2(b), and 2(c) of the *Municipal Funding Program Policy*, how were these amounts calculated?
- f. Within the meaning of subsection 2(d) of the *Municipal Funding Program Policy*, when did the last review of "community uniqueness factors" take place with respect to each of Nunavut's municipal corporations and what were the specific conclusions of the reviews?

- 2) As of November 8, 2018, what is the status of the review and/or renewal and/or extension of the *Municipal Funding Program Policy* that was revised on April 22, 2013 and which expired on April 30, 2018?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, do you agree that the written question be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Item 10: Petitions

**Petition 004 – 5(2): Amendments to
the Hamlets Act and the Cities,
Towns and Villages Act**

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

have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by close to two dozen economic development officers from across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, these petitioners are calling on the government to introduce amendments to the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* to address concerns related to unnecessary regulatory requirements that are currently imposed on small businesses in relation to certificates that are issued by the Workers' Safety and Compensation and Commission. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 099 – 5(2): Letter from Regional and Local Chambers of Commerce to the Minister of Community and Government Services

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today a copy of a letter that has been signed by the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, Baffin and Iqaluit Chambers of Commerce.

The letter calls on the government to introduce amendments to the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* to address concerns related to unnecessary regulatory requirements that are currently imposed on small businesses in relation to certificates that

are issued by the Workers' Safety and Compensation and Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review the document with care. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Tabled Document 100 – 5(2): Letter from the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission to the City of Iqaluit

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Community and Government Services and the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission will recall from our recent exchange of correspondence, I have conveyed concerns to them regarding the impact that section 112 of the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* has been having on small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today a copy of a letter from the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission to the City of Iqaluit which supports the repeal of this unnecessary provision in the legislation.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister Savikataaq.

Tabled Document 101 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Nunavummi Kiglisiniaqtiit Annual Report

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the Nunavummi Kiglisiniaqtiit, the bureau of statistics, 2017-18 annual report. Mr. Speaker, I know the regular members will go through this thoroughly and read it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

Tabled Document 102 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Public Accounts

Tabled Document 103 – 5(2): Interim Financial Report (Unaudited) March 31, 2018

Tabled Document 104 – 5(2): Responses to Letters of Expectation for 2018-2019

Tabled Document 105 – 5(2): Public Service Annual Report 2017-2018

Tabled Document 106 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Nunavut Liquor Commission Annual Report

Tabled Document 107 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board Annual Report

Tabled Document 108 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan

Tabled Document 109 – 5(2): Chief Medical Officer of Health 2017-2018 Tobacco Control Act Annual Report

Tabled Document 110 – 5(2): Provincial-Territorial Health Ministers' Meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 28, 2018

Tabled Document 111 – 5(2): FPT Health Ministers' Meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 28 to 29, 2018

Tabled Document 112 – 5(2): Addictions and Trauma Treatment in Nunavut 2018

Tabled Document 113 – 5(2): WSCC 2017 Annual Report

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister of Finance, I have four items to table today.

Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the Public Accounts for 2017-18.

Mr. Speaker, I am also tabling the Interim Financial Report (Unaudited) ending March 31, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I am also tabling the Responses to Letters of Expectation for 2018-19.

And I am tabling the Public Service Annual Report for 2017-18.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Liquor Commission, I would also like to table the Nunavut Liquor Commission's 2017-18 Annual Report.

As Minister responsible for the Liquor

Licensing Board, I would like to table the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board's 2017-18 Annual Report.

Mr. Speaker, I also have four items to table as Minister of Health.

>>Laughter

I would like to table the 2017-18 *Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan*.

I would also like to table the Chief Medical Officer of Health's 2017-18 *Tobacco Control Act* Annual Report.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table the Provincial-Territorial Health Ministers' Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 28, 2018.

I would also like to table the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Health Ministers' Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 28 to 29, 2018.

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I miscounted the items, but I have another one as the Minister of Health. I'm tabling the *Executive Summary and Summary Report for the Addictions and Trauma Treatment in Nunavut* dated August 2018.

Mr. Speaker, also, as Minister responsible for the WSCC, I would like to table the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's 2017 Annual Report.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I don't have anything to table under my other hat as Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, otherwise I would be all-encompassing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

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

Tabled Document 114 – 5(2): NHC's Contracting and Procurement Activity Report for March 31, 2017

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm glad to table the Contracting and Procurement Activity Report for the year ended March 31, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 115 – 5(2): Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period January 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018

Tabled Document 116 – 5(2): Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

(interpretation ends) Thank you, members. I have two documents to table today. The first document is the *Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period January 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018*.

Ammalu the second document is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. (interpretation) Thank you.

Moving on. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 14 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly – Notice

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 9, 2018, I will move that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*, to be read for the first time.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of the House to waive the notice period so that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*, can be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 14 today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr.

Rumbolt.

Bill 14 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly – First Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*, be read for the first 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.

First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of the House to waive the notice period so that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*, can be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the second reading of Bill 14 today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Rumbolt.

Bill 14 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly – Second Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried. As Bill 14 is a House Bill, it can be directly referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 12 and 14 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 take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:45 and Committee resumed at 17:09*

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 committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 12 and 14. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to proceed with the clause-by-clause review of Bill 12, followed by Bill 14. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 12?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak, do you have witnesses that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Ehaloak, for the record, if you could please introduce your witnesses and then proceed on to your opening comments. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Legal Counsel for the Qulliq Energy Corporation Denford Madekufamba, which means in his language, I just learned, to want to walk, *pisukta*, and to my left is Thomas Ahlfors, who is the Legislative Counsel for the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Sorry. Ms. Ehaloak, please go ahead with your opening comments.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Sorry, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I am here today to discuss Bill 12, an amendment to the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*. A number of amendments are required to the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* to allow the corporation to purchase and ensure that it aligns more clearly with the *Financial Administration Act*.

In addition to these changes, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has proposed to remove redundant and unnecessary provisions found in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*. These include provisions that were included to support the transit of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and sections of the Legislative Assembly that reference Part 2 of the Act which was repealed in 2007.

Bill 12 will provide the corporation with the ability to purchase clean energy from independent power producers across the

territory. This change will have a positive impact on our environment by reducing the Qulliq Energy Corporation's reliance on diesel fuel, in which turn reduces the amount of greenhouse gases produced. This will be Nunavut's first opportunity to create a large-scale renewable energy sector in the territory.

Following the amendment, the Qulliq Energy Corporation will launch the Independent Power Producers Program. This program will be cost-neutral and will not affect the rates of Qulliq Energy Corporation customers. The program will complement the Qulliq Energy Corporation's already established Net Metering Program, which allows residential customers to produce power in return for energy credits.

Changes to the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* will ensure that the provisions are clear and consistent with previous amendments and other legislation. The repeal of outdated information ensures that provisions which are no longer relevant to the corporation are removed.

Additionally, mirroring information found within the *Financial Administration Act* will remove conflicting language found within the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* and clarifies timelines and responsibilities for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Finally, Bill 12 includes a provision for the establishment of an audit committee by the Qulliq Energy Corporation board of directors as recommended by the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on September 23, 2014. Thank

you, Mr. Chairman.

I would be pleased to answer questions that the members may have.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): 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 12, *An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*.

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

(interpretation ends) The standing committee emphasizes the importance of the minister tabling the Qulliq Energy Corporation's new Independent Power Producers Policy in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the minister for having acted on standing committee recommendations concerning the mandatory establishment of an audit committee of the corporation's board of directors.

The new provisions in the legislation are closely modelled after existing provisions in the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act*.

In its consideration of the bill, the standing committee noted that although

references to the "Nunavut Power Corporation" are being removed from the parent statute, references to the "Qulliq Fuel Corporation" will remain in the legislation.

The concept of establishing a new entity to assume the functions that are currently being performed by the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services was first raised in the government's *Ikuma II Report*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 16, 2002.

The standing committee encourages the minister to provide greater public clarity as to the government's plans in this area.

The standing committee also notes that although section 29 of the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* provides that the corporation "shall, from time to time, declare dividends," the standing committee's understanding is that the corporation has never declared a dividend.

Although subsection 4(2) of the statute provides that the corporation is an "agent" of the Government of Nunavut, the legal status of the government as being the corporation's sole "shareholder" should be made more explicitly and unambiguously clear in the legislation, and the standing committee recommends that this be addressed in a future amendment to the Act.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 12 to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Do any members have general comments? If not, go to Bill 12 in your white binder beneath your desk, please. Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation 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: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 12 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 12 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak, do you have any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very excited about this bill, as it will reduce greenhouse gases within Nunavut and the Qulliq Energy Corporation's [reliance] on diesel fuel. I look forward to working further on this implementation. Thank you to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. On behalf of the committee and members, I thank you and your staff for all the work that has gone into preparing this bill. With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort out the witnesses.

I would like to ask members to please stay in your seats while we prepare for the next bill, which will be Bill 14.

Bill 14 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee

Thank you, members. I would like to ask the Speaker: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do members agree for the witness to enter the Chamber?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Speaker, if you could introduce your witness and then go on into your opening comments, please. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is our Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Quirke.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the

opportunity to provide some brief opening comments concerning Bill 14, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*.

Bill 14 provides greater flexibility for the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly to address situations that arise following the expiry of the terms of office of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

The bill also makes a number of technical amendments to provide for further uniformity between the statutes, as well as correcting terminological inconsistencies between the French versions of a number of the statutes.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do any members have general comments? If not, go to Bill 14 in your white binder. Bill 14, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity. I just want to ensure I comprehend, as you are the Chairman and he is the Speaker, so at this point

who is the official in charge? I would like to clearly understand that as I am slightly confused about that and whether I should even speak to the matter. It is due to my being a new member that I am still learning how the system works in this case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I am chairing these proceedings and Mr. Speaker is still the Speaker of this Assembly, so I will refer him as the Speaker as long as he is in this building. Is that okay? Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

Again, just for the record, clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree with Bill 14 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 14 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Any closing comments? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) No. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

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

What is the wish of the committee? 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's a motion on the floor to report progress. It is not debatable. All those in favour. Those against. 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 Bills 12 and 14 and would like to report that Bills 12 and 14 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, Mr. Qirngnuq. 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 responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act – Third Reading

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation 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. The motion is carried.

>>Applause

Bill 12 is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Bill 14 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly – Third Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*, 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. (interpretation ends) Thank you. (interpretation) All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 14 is now ready for assent.

Mr. Clerk, will you please ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is ready to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Nellie Kusugak (interpretation): As the Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 2, *Chartered Professional Accountants Act*;
- Bill 9, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2019-2020*;
- Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019*;
- Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2017-2018*;
- Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*; and
- Bill 14, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the Terms of Office of Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*.

Although the cold of winter lies ahead, let us embrace the coming warmth of the holiday season.

Further, as members travel back to your constituencies and to your families, I wish you safe travels to your home. I also share in the happiness of your loved

ones who have patiently waited for your return, and especially your grandchildren who will be able to visit once again. How endearing that sight will be.

I am grateful for your continuous efforts and dedication to improve the lives of Nunavummiut. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Moving on with the orders of the day. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for February 19, 2019:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. On behalf of my colleagues, I want to show our gratitude as I have to thank everyone who works here during our sessions, different types of workers where some we see daily while others are never seen in the foreground.

Prior to publicly voicing my appreciation, I want to first start by thanking our loved ones we have left behind in our communities, our spouses, our children, our grandchildren. I send out thanks to all of you as with your continuing support, we are able to withstand some of the long sessions. I thank you for your understanding of the work that requires us to work on issues here. We also know that if we didn't receive your commitment, none of us would be able to be here. I first publicly thank our spouses, children and relatives.

>>Applause

Within our Chamber, the workers I especially wish to thank are those who, if they weren't here doing their jobs or if they weren't involved, would make our work all that much harder and Nunavummiut wouldn't understand the proceedings.

I want to publicly state their names here firstly because they are amongst the most important workers, our interpreters at the Legislative Assembly. I will start with the Inuinnaqtun interpreters: James, Gwen, and Allen. Thank you.

>>Applause

Our Inuktitut interpreters: Mary, Blandina, Philip, and Andrew. Thank you.

>>Applause

Additionally, our Clerk, Mr. Quirke, and Mr. Innuksuk and all of your associates who work upstairs dealing with the operations of the Legislative Assembly and our session operations, it is only due to your dedication and hard work that things operate smoothly. Brenda and everyone who works upstairs, I thank you.

>>Applause

Also, we have many workers in the background who we rarely see in the House and whom the residents of Nunavut don't observe. They include our technicians in the television booth and the radio broadcast booth, as well as our constituency assistants. Although they don't usually appear here, you are also the ones we are thankful to. We are extremely grateful.

>>Applause

Also, in the House we have our pages here and who are constantly with us during sessions. I thank you very much.

>>Applause

Furthermore, I thank our Sergeant-At-Arms as he is extremely patient and we force him to wait for us to complete our daily sessions as he is there all day, every day, so we are always grateful to you for looking after us in the House.

>>Applause

Now, as members start to travel back home, I too wish all of you safe travels to your home communities, and I hope we all arrive safe. Further, to members who won't be leaving, I hope you enjoy the opportunity to stay home more often as it will afford more time to be home. This is for the members who represent Iqaluit and who live here, but I am aware that we sometimes spend extended hours at the House, almost like being out hunting due to the number of hours. I am happy that we will be able to be with our families and friends at home.

This winter I hope that all members have a safe time and we will see each other soon and in the future.

I will now state that this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>Applause

>>House adjourned at 17:40

Appendix – November 8, 2018



Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Adam Arreak Lightstone, MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak

Asked of: Lorne Kusugak, Minister responsible for Nunavut
Housing Corporation

Number: 232 – 5(2)

Date: November 1, 2018

Subject: Staff Housing Policy

Question:

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to clarify that when I was looking at my calculations, the response to my written question indicated that 51 employees in the Nunavut Housing Corporation were allocated staff housing and at the same time, in June, according to the *Towards a Representative Public Service*, the trips report, 91 positions were filled, which is where I got my 56 percent of filled positions being in staff housing.

Aside from that, I would also like to indicate that of those numbers, out of two executive positions that are filled are provided staff housing, as well as eight senior management positions out of eight senior management positions filled are also allocated staff housing.

That means that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has 100 percent staff housing allocated to their senior and executive management positions compared to 50 percent of the remainder of the government.

With that being said, my next question is: consider that these high ratios of staff housing being allocated to Nunavut Housing Corporation employees, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation representative chairing the allocation committee, if

there is some sort of bias being given to the Nunavut Housing Corporation employees during the allocation committee meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Response:

The Member asked whether there is bias in favour of the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC) for the allocation of units under the GN Staff Housing Program. The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no. I want to ensure all members that there is no bias within the decision making process.

The NHC follows the same process as other departments in submitting staff housing requests through the (regional + Iqaluit) allocation committees. Allocations committees are made up of representatives from various departments and decisions are taken collaboratively—the NHC does not make allocation decisions unilaterally.

The Government of Nunavut Staff Housing Program plays an important role in supporting the recruitment and retention within the public service, most particularly in the decentralized and non-hub communities.

Allocations of staff housing are based on the position, not the person. Positions are prioritized based on the Staff Housing Policy—1. Health, safety, security, 2. Operations 3. Administration.

The NHC's staff currently occupy about 4% of the total territory-wide number of allocated staff housing units (51/1420 allocated units). As a comparison, staff members at the Departments of Education, Health and Justice occupy 35%, 21%, and 9% respectively. All other departments occupy less than 9% respectively of occupied units. For smaller departments like the NHC, a small shift in staff housing occupancy can significantly impact on the ratio of employees assigned a staff housing units versus those without.

There are a variety of complexities and variations in staff housing among communities or departments. The NHC and its staffing requirements sit within that context.

For example, 66% of the NHC's filled positions are located outside of Iqaluit. (60/91 filled positions)—this includes 25 staffed positions in Cape Dorset, of which 17 are in staff housing. It is important to note that Cape Dorset is a decentralized community with limited private market housing options.

The following is a table of the communities in which NHC employees are located and the related number of employees within staff housing currently. Arviat is the location of two separate offices: Kivalliq District Office and NHC Headquarters. There is a senior manager responsible for each of the four NHC offices located outside of Iqaluit.

Community	% of NHC Employees in Staff Housing	Employees in Staff Housing	Employees not in SH	Total Staffed
Iqaluit	68%	21	10	31
Cape Dorset	68%	17	8	25
Arviat	24%	6	19	25
Cambridge Bay	70%	7	3	10
Total	56%	51	40	91