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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 5, 2019**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, 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 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>> *Prayer*

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

Let's now proceed with the meeting. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 184 – 5(2):
Hivuliqtikhanut and Sivuliqtiksat
Graduations**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to *Sivummuaqpalliajjutivut*, providing education and training that prepares Nunavummiut for meaningful employment.

Among the Government of Nunavut's valuable training opportunities for employees are the Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership Development Program and the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program.

Mr. Speaker, the Hivuliqtikhanut program consists of three series: senior managers, supervisors, and emerging leaders. Since 2015 the Public Service Training Division of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has delivered six sessions of this program. To date a total of 109 employees have graduated.

The Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program, offered since 2001, is a one- to three-year internship for Inuit, supported by a designated trainer, a customized learning plan, and group and individual training courses. An intern is a term employee who is guaranteed employment upon successful completion of their learning plan and satisfactory performance reviews. Since its inception, 35 Inuit have successfully completed this program.

Mr. Speaker, on November 22, 2018, 17 participants graduated from the third session of the Hivuliqtikhanut supervisors series. These graduates came from Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Iqaluit, and Pond

Inlet. On February 12, 2019 a graduation ceremony was held to honour the three most recent graduates of the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program.

Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes the need to build capacity from within. We remain committed to providing training to develop and support our public servants. Strengthening our employees' skills, knowledge, and abilities leads to improved delivery of government programs and services.

Please join me in congratulating these most recent graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 185 – 5(2):
Welcome Educational Upgrade
Program Students**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, please join me in extending a warm welcome to the new cohort of health staff who recently joined our Education Upgrade Program by completing a six-week preparatory course.

Mr. Speaker, these eight Inuit employees will embark on either a one-year certificate program or a two-year diploma studying community health promotion through the Native Education and Training College in Ontario.

Academic tutors were brought on to prepare and deliver the preparatory

course in collaboration with Department of Health staff. In addition to assessing employee readiness and preparing them for college education, the tutors will continue to support our employees by adapting and delivering lectures using resources that reflect our territory.

Mr. Speaker and members, the Education Upgrade Program was developed to support Nunavut Inuit in health positions, a direct response to Article 23 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. My department is committed to the development of a supportive Inuit employment plan that encourages and develops skills among our staff.

Mr. Speaker and members, I am extremely pleased that the Department of Health is working to advance career opportunities in health care for Nunavummiut. Of the first cohort of 12 students, 4 students completed a one-year certificate in community health promotion and 8 students are in their final semester of the two-year diploma program. Mr. Speaker, five of our 12 students have shown an interest in continuing their post-secondary education after graduating from the Educational Upgrade Program. We look forward to celebrating the graduation of the first cohort of Education Upgrade Program students in April 2019.

Mr. Speaker, let us all give a big round of applause to welcome the following new students:

- Nina Joamie of Pangnirtung
- Annie Killulark of Baker Lake
- Hattie Pameolik of Arviat

- Joan Killulark of Baker Lake
- Kiligvak Tookoome of Baker Lake
- Brenda Kavik of Sanikiluaq
- Darlene Eyegetok of Cambridge Bay; and
- Jasmine Oolayou of Iqaluit.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 186 – 5(2):
Qikiqtani Correctional Healing
Centre Contract Award**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to rise today to announce that on December 11, 2018 the Government of Nunavut awarded the contract for the construction of the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre (QCHC) to Pilitak Enterprises Ltd. Construction is expected to begin in March of 2019 with an anticipated end date in the spring of 2022.

This project supports the commitments made under *Turaaqtavut* to develop our infrastructure and economy in ways that support a positive future for our people, our communities, and our land. The new facility will improve the access to program and services for offenders housed in Nunavut.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work and dedication

of the departments of Justice and Community and Government Services to get this contract awarded and signed. We all look forward to our continued partnership with Pilitak Enterprises Ltd. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 187 – 5(2):
Modernizing the Housing
Maintainer Occupational
Standard**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the House and our fellow Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the modernization of the housing maintainer trade. The housing maintainer trade is unique to Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. It combines aspects of the carpenter, painter, electrician, plumber and oil heat systems technician trades.

Uqaqtitsijii, housing maintainers have been providing essential upkeep and repair of residential housing in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories for more than 40 years. They also take on supervisory and management positions within the Nunavut Housing Corporation and local housing organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the housing maintainer trade was last reviewed in 2008. Since that time the working conditions of housing maintainers have changed substantially. New materials, new safety

standards, and a better understanding of the dangers of mould demand that the trade be updated. Discussions about workforce development arising from the blueprint for action also pointed to the pressing need to update the occupational standard for housing maintainers.

Mr. Speaker, as a first step to updating the occupational standard, representatives from my department and the Nunavut Housing Corporation met with subject matter experts in Yellowknife in January 2019. A large part of the discussion focused on defining the knowledge and skills housing maintainers need to have in order to successfully carry out their duties.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues from the Government of Northwest Territories, specifically the Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupational Certification Branch of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Because of their support and assistance, the process of updating the occupational standard is underway.

Mr. Speaker, once the revised occupational standard is drafted it will be distributed for public comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 188 – 5(2):
Award-winning Businesses**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize two award-winning business owners who are making a difference. Both of them won awards earlier this month.

Alex Flaherty is originally from my home town of Grise Fiord. He now lives in Iqaluit and runs Polar Outfitting. On February 13 in Whitehorse he received the Indigenous Youth Entrepreneur of the Year award for the Nunavut region at the Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference. This award honours the youth entrepreneur who has best demonstrated excellence, creativity, and innovation in their business or profession.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Flaherty has been a part of my department's Inuit Tourism Business Development Mentorship Program for the past two years and his business has grown tremendously. The program is a collaboration of my department's Tourism and Cultural Industries Division and the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada.

Jennifer Lindell's Jenn87 Hairstyling won the Community Champion of the Year award for the Nunavut region at the same conference.

With support from my department, Ms. Lindell was able to open a new hair salon in downtown Iqaluit and is planning to offer more services.

She has been managing her own business for the last 11 years and recently even gave free haircuts to people in need.

These young entrepreneurs are proof of what Nunavummiut can do. My department is proud to support hardworking entrepreneurs in Nunavut who are making a difference.

Congratulations to Ms. Lindell and Mr. Flaherty on your achievements!
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 279 – 5(2): The Need to Increase Employment Opportunities

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

Mr. Speaker, the Regular Members' Caucus has a common theme to query the government on today, specifically employment opportunities and the creation of jobs for Nunavummiut. We feel job creation is critically important, and this applies to every community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there is a desperate need for increased employment opportunities all across Nunavut, whether it be government, private sector, mining, construction, the arts, transportation, or fisheries. We just have to consider as representing our constituents the benefits that come from having a job. Having a job gives people satisfaction. It gives them a purpose in their life, not to mention a paycheque.

There are also secondary benefits to having increased employment. People who are employed are generally in better state when it comes to their health, physical and mental, there are community benefits to increased employment and social benefits for families.

Mr. Speaker, there are also benefits for the government. We all know the huge burden placed on this government due to high reliance on social housing and social assistance, not to mention the fact that people who are employed pay more taxes, which I'm sure the Minister of Finance would appreciate.

Mr. Speaker, there's a strong need within Nunavut to build on the successes we've already had in terms of securing employment for our people. We need to get our people working and we need to keep them there. As I mentioned, this will have huge benefits for the territory, huge benefits for our kids and for our families.

As we will be focusing on this topic today, I would just like to highlight the budget speech in which the Minister of Finance mentioned, "As young Nunavummiut grow up, they will need meaningful employment." When we ask questions about jobs, we're talking about the future of Nunavut, Mr. Speaker.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 280 – 5(2): Inuit Employment at North West Company

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

Today they are interring Usai Eugene Niviatsiak in Chesterfield Inlet. We feel your sense of loss and empathize.

Mr. Speaker, today we want to discuss every possible opportunity for employment available as members of the Regular Caucus. I keep noticing throughout our territory of Nunavut, some long-standing corporations that have been in our territories for many years such as Northern Stores as it is called in English.

To date, this business has no Inuit working in management positions yet, and the entity also owns housing in every community, yet not even one of their units is occupied by Inuit. They have operated for many decades in Nunavut, with stores in every community, but no training occurs for Inuit to take on management responsibilities. Inuit should already be moving up their corporate ladder, to see if they can take it on.

I have also noted that although Inuit purchase major items from the stores, yet they haven't invested in us by buying our crafts, our carvings and arts coming from the north, although they are profiting tremendously from our northern territories.

An. Hon Member: Hear, hear!

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, we will be making note of these types of issues. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 281 – 5(2): We Are All Teachers

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and “hello” Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to suggest that our government look at alternative ways to promote its Inuit employment strategies to take advantage of the skills and abilities that many of our community residents have and to create opportunities for employment that are not limited by someone having specific documented qualifications or not.

Mr. Speaker, one area where we are sorely lacking staff is in the area of bilingual education. It is clear that there are not enough Inuit language speaking teachers in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that we are all teachers. We all have the capability of teaching others what we know. We can pass on our skills and abilities. It is part of human nature.

Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents in the community of Kugluktuk works in our elementary school and is very passionate and a very skilled entertainer. My constituent takes so much pride in what she does, teaching in the most creative and inspiring way. It is clear

that the children in her classes benefit tremendously from what she has to offer. This educator goes above and beyond. She uses Inuit materials and cultural concepts. She may not be a fully certified teacher, but she is a true teacher.

Mr. Speaker, this educator is an example and a role model of the kind of people we need in our schools. We need to think beyond the limitations of formal qualifications and certifications when considering the range of knowledge, culture, history, and language that can be taught by those who know their subjects and can share their knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, we know that much *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is not formally codified in books and documents, yet we desperately need *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* to be taught by those who know and live it and understand it if we want it to continue through these generations.

We need all kinds of teachers for our children to be successful in Nunavut's future. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 282 – 5(2): The Nunavut Dream Has Not Been Delivered

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice a

commonly held concern amongst the many concerns expressed by our constituents. Now, we are aware that Inuit fought for and created Nunavut. Some Inuit from that time are here, and some of us here were intimately involved in the negotiations to attain self-governance in Nunavut.

We undertook several processes to separate from the GNWT, to create our own territory and government for the Eastern Arctic within Nunavut, and we fought for this during our negotiations with the federal government. We fought on behalf of residents in our communities, who when we established our own government that Inuit rights and capabilities were to be incorporated into this government. We had a strong vision to try to repatriate Inuit self-determination.

Mr. Speaker, in some ways the many expectations Inuit held about incorporating the language and cultural practices into our future government have never quite been implemented nor incorporated to date within the government.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Tununig used to reference the fact that Inuit now live the fast life, and the expectations he held about inclusion of Inuit wasn't occurring currently.

Mr. Speaker, I personally divested much time on this fight to get our own territory during the days of TFN, or the Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut. During that era, I was on the TFN Board, and worked with our negotiators to resolve the issues. There are people in Iqaluit who were involved in these intensive negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, today 20 years have passed since the creation of the Government of Nunavut, and yet as of this date, we still adhere to ancient pieces of legislation from the days of the NWT which we still follow today.

Mr. Speaker, this continues to be one of the biggest concerns held by our constituents and voting public. When will these rights we fought to include be incorporated, either some or all of them should be added by this government and in particular related to Inuit societal values as we still follow GNWT legislation in this area.

Many laws in Nunavut are still legacies of this transferral, and many of the rights we fought for in the *Nunavut Agreement* are still not fully implemented. This requires more commitment to ensure that these rights become enshrined in our territorial legislation and to implement the *Nunavut Agreement* fully today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 283 – 5(2):
Empowering Subsistence Hunters**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Prior to making my statement, I send good day wishes to the residents of Baker Lake and Nunavummiut. Hello, Kukigjak. He is a very young boy who recognized me as they watch the televised proceedings, and I was reminded to acknowledge this boy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the issues that led to the creation of Nunavut. We all know that here as MLAs, as we were elected afterwards. Nonetheless, we must always take that into consideration when dealing with our main estimates and appropriation budgets.

As much of this process revolves around approval of future budgets, we must especially recall that Nunavummiut are the reason why we must diligently represent them. Many residents have never worked at an office job nor have they ever entered a mine workforce.

We must remember our campaign promises made in our push to get elected. Myself I was reminded by voters that some of them survive solely by hunting and as such as full-time hunters, what we call real Inuit hunters or as the Baffin representatives say, as I seem to understand more of their dialect whom they call *asivaqtillariit*.

>> *Laughter*

Our voting constituents are also mostly beneficiaries of the land claim, whom we should keep in consideration and that they depend on having the most nutritional food that is healthy and strengthen their physical bodies.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this matter later on, on the members of our constituencies that are beneficiaries of the *Nunavut Agreement*, who are full-time hunters with no other sources of income that we must work harder to represent here, as they manage our wildlife by harvesting some of the healthiest, most nutritious country foods in the entire north. Thank you very

much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 284 – 5(2):
Support for Small Businesses**

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, to my fellow residents of Amittuq and Nunavut.

Now, the two subjects of human resources and economic development will be our focus today, and that we will ask questions on them during question period. I, too, have some promises I made during my campaign wherein I stated that I would fight on behalf of constituents in Amittuq to try to provide support and to represent them.

This other matter I speak to at length to my fellow residents of Amittuq relates to the youth, how to work towards personal development and to remind them that all it takes is hard work and dedication, which I try to then voice to the youth. The youth now have endless opportunities to better themselves, especially with this digital world of computers, where anyone can surf the Internet to find the information they want, including their proficiency digitally.

I was going to speak about entrepreneurship or creating one's own business, especially in our smaller communities, where employment opportunities are hard to come by. I try to encourage them to contemplate a

larger horizon and to think of the big picture. If we push for local businesses to be created, it would help alleviate some of our problems. Now, it would impact some of our programs like income support if more people had a job as fewer people would require income support. As well, our youth would have a place to approach for potential employment and places to visit.

I continue to speak about our opportunities, and I also inform them that if programs geared towards economic development were to be offered in our communities and if the benefits are tangible and will assist our fellow residents, as I have voiced this in the past and still do now, I will support initiatives that allow our constituents to benefit from future developments in Amittuq and all of Nunavut.

Now, when we get to question period, I want to clearly indicate here that I will have questions for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation about issues such as these and to request further support for residents who are entrepreneurs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 285 – 5(2):
Encouraging Inuit Employment**

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people from my community, as well as to my colleagues here.

Mr. Speaker, I just got back to Iqaluit as I had to rush, but I'm glad I was able to make it to this sitting. We were in Toronto and I thank the Minister of Economic Development for his invitation. We were proud to see numerous mining companies attending the mining symposium, and quite a number have been trying to start development in Nunavut. I think that there are four mining companies actually doing work in Nunavut. We expect them to hire many Inuit.

With our Speaker, we recently went up to the Mary River mine site and they're building a residence that can hold 800 people. We hope that they will hire 800 Inuit who can work up there. This will really enhance the employment of Inuit. My colleague also stated that this is what we were expecting, where Inuit can be employed more and be willing to work. We have to push for that everywhere. How can more Inuit get jobs?

There are other places where there are jobs available, not just in the government. There's the mining sector as well as other sectors. Let us always promote that as MLAs so that our Inuit won't just be sitting around. They want to work too, so let's really support our fellow Inuit in Nunavut and the people of Aggu. That's what I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 286 – 5(2):
Casual Staffing in the Public
Service**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm concerned over the Government of Nunavut's practices and policies related to casual employment. Mr. Speaker, specifically I am concerned over the growing number of long-term casuals employed by the government.

I believe the provisions stipulated in the collective agreement are not being followed. The evidence is shown in the Public Service Annual Report, which shows the amount of long-term casuals is growing due to the continued practice of extending casual staffing actions instead of working to transfer these employees into term or indeterminate positions.

This practice of overusing casual assignments has a negative impact not just to these employees but to the territory. These employees don't have job security, as was shown in the most recent mass terminations in one of the departments. These employees are not eligible for extended benefits, such as education leave, staff housing, or household allowance. Lastly, these employees are facing financial barriers which prevent them from securing a mortgage.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will have more questions on this topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 287 – 5(2):
Emerging Employment
Opportunities for Nunavummiut**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for this opportunity to make my statement. I also say “good day” to the residents of Rankin Inlet, and I sympathize with those who will be laying their relative to rest today.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad today to hear that members will be speaking primarily about opportunities for employment and career development as we need to focus on that in Nunavut. I know the government itself is a good place to build a career and as my colleagues mentioned, government isn't the only place to get employment. In Nunavut I would love to be young once again, to have just finished high school and be faced by these endless opportunities today. The opportunities are boundless the way I see them in terms of employment opportunities as there are so many, Mr. Speaker.

Just as an example, in Rankin Inlet just last week the first gold brick was poured at the new mine and it hasn't even officially opened. They are producing gold already in Rankin Inlet. Further, this summer in June, the mine will officially open in Rankin Inlet. There are over 600 jobs that will open there. That is just for the mine in Rankin Inlet, as the mine in Baker Lake already has Inuit employed as well as hundreds of more jobs at Mary River.

There are more positions opening up for employment within the mining sector and this will continue. I would love to urge our youth, the younger generations

and even those of our generation to apply for positions at the mine sites, as there are opportunities for haul drivers, front-end loaders, electricians, custodial workers, and mechanics, whichever career they want to follow as it is endless.

A slight issue that seems to cause problems is the fact that the shift lasts only two weeks, then they have to go home for a period. Perhaps this type of shift work might be beneficial once we become accustomed as it would allow us to work until retirement. We could have jobs available to us, our children and our grandchildren.

I strongly encourage all residents of Rankin Inlet, actually from Nunavut to pursue a career in these sectors and grab the jobs we are capable of doing and, if we can't, pursue further training to qualify. Training opportunities will also abound with the mining companies and through lifelong education. This is an endless cycle, so let's always encourage our residents to apply for jobs so it stays in Nunavut before it is taken by someone else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 288 – 5(2):
Tribute to Mavis Ell of Coral
Harbour**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow residents of Aivilik. To the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour, I say “good day” to you.

Today, Mr. Speaker, as the theme today revolves around careers and job opportunities, I want to voice my pride in this fellow resident of Coral Harbour who attended training courses in Iqaluit based on her vision for her future.

Although in the course of her studies she underwent difficult times, she was able to successfully complete her studies. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Mavis Ell, as she is now a nurse in Coral Harbour.

Nunavut is making progress slowly, our residents are growing their capabilities and capacities, and we never saw any Inuit in these nursing positions or as engineers that we may see at one point with continued education.

Ms. Ell is said to be quite qualified and many would voice their pride in her, both her fellow nursing students and instructors. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Ms. Mavis Ell has an exceptional record. She was the very first nursing graduate to complete the pre-nursing and nursing programs at our very own Nunavut Arctic College.

She is described by her instructors as a dedicated student with a strong record both academically and clinically, and three times during her studies, Ms. Ell was the recipient of the Chris Egan Memorial Scholarship.

(interpretation) Chris Egan was a nurse stationed in Coral Harbour when I was younger, and she was our community nurse up until the terrible events of 9-11, where she was visiting a person at the Twin Towers in New York where she lost her life due to that terrorist attack.

(interpretation ends) During her time at

the college, Ms. Ell was outspoken that her goal upon completion of the Nursing Program was to return to her home to Salliq (Coral Harbour) to practise nursing.

Uqaqtii, I can personally confirm that she has accomplished that goal. Nothing gets in the way when we decide to say “I’m going to go forward and become a mark in human history.” We never hear from those that quit along the way.

Mr. Speaker, it is a rare mark... .

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for allowing me to continue with my statement.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is a rare mark of character for an individual to hold true to their dreams such as Ms. Ell did. Over her five years of hard work at the college, Ms. Ell has done just that and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Ell in her tremendous academic and personal accomplishments and to thank her in advance for the outstanding contribution that I know she will make to the Coral Harbour residents and to Nunavut. This is the Nunavut dream. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a woman here whom I worked with for about four years. She also makes herself available to support suicide prevention. I would like to welcome Caroline Anawak and I recognize her as well, and she is also a daughter-in-law of our group of siblings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to recognize a couple of people who are sitting behind me. Ms. Heather Moffett is here with her daughter, Jeneca Fanjoy.

Mr. Speaker, just to give a quick tribute, after all it is Ms. Moffett's last day in Nunavut's public service. Mr. Speaker, Heather has contributed to Nunavut's public service over the past 16 years. She began her career with the Department of Education in 2003 at the Qikiqtani School Office in Pond Inlet as a human resource officer. She has since held multiple positions within the

government and also completed her Chartered Profession Accountant and Chartered Management Accountant designation.

Since 2015 Ms. Moffett has fulfilled the duties of Director of Corporate Services at the Department of Education, leading the work on the department's divisional realignment as well as streamlining the practice of the regional human resources to ensure consistency and equity.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Ms. Moffett and her husband, Kully, the best of luck as they leave for New Brunswick. We thank her for the passion and dedication that she has brought to the Department of Education and for being the driving force behind several important advanced initiatives that our department has made over the last five years.

Give it up, Mr. Speaker, for Heather Moffett. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I may, on behalf of the Nunavut Assembly and as the Speaker of the Assembly and on behalf of the people of Nunavut, we thank you for your service and we wish you well. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She was recognized already, but Caroline Anawak is here. I am glad

to see you here. It's obvious that she is always open to assist in suicide prevention. She is open anytime to be consulted with and spoken to, which I wanted known. I thank her for being in the gallery and for offering assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just thought I would also stand up today to recognize Ms. Anawak so that she can be seen on TV. Say "hi" to the camera. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) And again, Ms. Anawak, we thank you for what you do for Nunavut and Nunavummiut.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Let us move on. Before we proceed to the next item, my colleagues, I regret to inform you that Minister Akeegok is unable to be present today, so please take note of that.

We will now proceed with question period. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat and Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 388 – 5(2): Inuit Employment Targets in Government Contracts

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my question is around government contracting activity, particularly with major contracts. I will be referring to the Contract Activity Report for 2016-17.

Under page 5, on multi-year trends, I'm going to quote from the report, "Inuit and Nunavut Firms are more successful at winning contracts for Major and Minor Construction and Air Charters. This represents an eleven year trend."

Mr. Speaker, as it pertains to major contracts in particular, my first question is: are Inuit and Nunavut firms more successful at employing Inuit? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the question. (interpretation) In regard to contracts and employment and Inuit employment in particular, I don't have the numbers in front of me, but we can see that they do tend to hire more Inuit. We see a lot more Inuit being employed by these private companies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the report and it's not obvious here.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when it comes to major works or capital projects over \$100,000, the report shows that Inuit labour percentages required across Nunavut are stagnant. In 2013-14 the average required was 30 percent and then four years later in 2016-17 the average required was 31 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I guess my next question for the minister is: what is stopping the government from raising the required Inuit employment levels of major contracts? What is holding us back as a territory from raising the required level of Inuit labour in major contracts? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. Mr. Speaker, in regard to Inuit employment for contracts, there are different percentages.

Using Iqaluit as an example, if they're going to be building a port or marine infrastructure or a correctional facility or a hospital, there's a limited number of Inuit that are available. If we use Arviat or Whale Cove as an example, if they're going to be building a school and that's the only project up and coming, they can increase the number of Inuit employed at that project because there's a lot of unemployment.

With that, there's a staggered number and percentages of Inuit hired are different depending on the community. If there's construction involved or a project, they tend to have more Inuit hired in the outlying communities. With that, there are different percentages set

for the contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. He's using Iqaluit as an example and if they're going to be building a correctional facility, we all know there are projects all the time here in Iqaluit and they import their workers, not from Nunavut but from outside the territory. They pay for their meals and accommodations.

(interpretation ends) I would like the minister to commit to making something happen where we will see companies recruiting from an entire region, if not the entire territory, and providing accommodations and benefits similar to the ones that are provided to southern workers for Nunavummiut. Will the minister commit to making something along these lines happen, be it a pilot project, and change the way that we are building these major projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my colleague recalls our previous discussions this winter when we debated the contracts and requests were made to have 100 percent Inuit hires. This percentage was not reached and the contractor will not receive their bonus. The contract was supposed to have 100

percent Inuit hires, but since that target wasn't reached, it created issues with non-compliance.

There are issues that crop up from time to time in dealing with contractual matters, and even though they didn't reach the target, they were able to complete the contractual requirements. Usually the contract is cut off when requirements aren't met, so then problems arise when targets are not reached.

Yes, regarding the matters we want to debate, perhaps I can state here that it should be available by the spring sitting related to contractual obligations, and meet with our officials in the (interpretation ends) Procurement (interpretation) Division and meet with them where questions can be raised, perhaps even outside of the House. This would compare the actual reality.

(interpretation ends) Just to outline some of the things that CGS isn't responsible for, our department, procurement, we do not determine specifications of client departments or program needs. We do not make changes to the application of the NNI Policy. We do not determine what companies are on the NNI and NTI list. We do not score RFP proposals, except for sealift, and we are not responsible for contract or project management.

(interpretation) With that, we will work with the different entities that we need to work with and look at how we can include the people of Nunavut more in those different projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Question 389 – 5(2): Casual Employees

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Human Resources and they will focus on the issue of casual employment in the government.

As the minister is very much aware, many concerns have been expressed by regular members and ministers about the issue of casual employment in the government, especially the issue of long-term casuals.

(interpretation ends) In many cases it appears that departments are over-reliant on the use of casual employees. Can the minister indicate how his new department plans to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's like 30 days before I become the minister of employment, but our department will be working with all the departments within the Government of Nunavut in reviewing the current casual process. We will work with our clients to see if and how we can better deal and assess the clients' casual status in departments. Unfortunately we will always have casual employment. That's inevitable, but I agree, I think that we have to take a good look and start to reduce that number significantly. I think it's one of the challenges we will tackle

within our new department beginning April 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister did not respond to my question. He didn't give anything that I could work on, but one of the most common concerns that we hear as MLAs is from long-term casuals who want to become permanent employees of the government. Can the minister provide a clear example of the process by which a casual employee who has been in the same job for more than a year can apply to have their employment status changed to that of an indeterminate employee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are so many different casuals in different statuses and trying to give my colleague a detailed analysis and analogy of how we would take an individual from casual onto a permanent status depends on where the casual is and if that position that he or she is in is slated to be a full-time position or not. I have said in this House that we will work towards ensuring that all jobs that go out will be put out for the public to apply, and we will take that process, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to, though, that in the last three years there have been almost 500 casual staffing assignments that have been turned over and made full time. That's a significant amount of staff that have been and we will continue to do

that and we will continue to try to improve that number at a quicker pace, Mr. Speaker.

I think, with the new department, when we do go into force on April 1, we will work with the different departments and see what positions can be turned over from casual into full-time positions through advertisement or direct hire. Those remain to be clarified, but I look forward to the challenge on April 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not talking about an analysis of the human department or structure overall subjectively. I'm talking about an objective goal.

We're looking at the Rankin Inlet casuals. As of October 1, 2018, the department had 516 employees, out of which 100 casual employees in Rankin Inlet. That tells me approximately two-thirds of who work for either the Department of Health or the Department of Community and Government Services. These figures indicate that there are at least 100 casual employees. Will the minister commit to having his new department undertake an audit of the use of casual employees in these two departments for Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. If there are 500 employees,

100 is definitely not two-thirds in math, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, I said this in my first response and my second response, our department is committed to looking into the casual statuses of all departments, including Health, including CGS, not just in Rankin but throughout government and we will evaluate them and try to ensure that we eliminate as many casual positions as possible where we can, Mr. Speaker. I have that commitment and I continue to commit to that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 390 – 5(2): Casual Employees

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to follow up on my colleague Ms. Towtongie's questions. I just wanted to reiterate that we're not looking for the GN to eliminate casuals. We're looking for the GN to try to convert these casuals to term or indeterminate or otherwise permanent positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity. My questions today are for the Premier.

In the most recent Public Service Annual Report there were a total of 902 casuals representing 25 percent of our workforce, which is up from just 17 percent a number of years ago.

Mr. Speaker, we are failing compared to the other territories, where the Northwest Territories has casuals representing 4 percent of the workforce, and the Yukon, their numbers are so low that they have

actually stopped reporting the number of casuals in their workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the need to fill positions with casuals, but I do not believe that program managers should be allowed to continuously extend casual employment, which has happened to some of my constituents for as long as seven years.

I would like to ask the Premier: does he share my concerns over the negative impacts associated with long-term casual employment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The statistics show that we rely heavily on casuals. That's a fact. The numbers say it, but what the numbers don't say is a lot of these casuals are nurses in communities. We hire a lot of nurses, either as agency nurses or casual nurses to give the services that are needed within in Nunavut because that's one of the areas we have a hard time getting permanent nurses to come to work in the small, outlying communities.

Most of the casuals are less than on two years. There are few that are going long term already, but most are less than two years. Even two years is too long, but we still have to provide the services.

Sometimes we can't fill a position for reasons beyond our control. I ask the member: is it better to wait and keep that position vacant and not provide the services that are needed by Nunavummiut or is putting a casual in there in the interim to give the services we need to give to the people of Nunavut an acceptable solution in the short term?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the need for casuals, especially those hard-to-fill positions such as nurses, but the Department of Health long-term casuals only represents a fraction of the total number of long-term casuals across the GN.

I believe that we need to change our mentality in the government and we need to encourage our program managers to conduct the proper paperwork required to convert these long-term casuals to term or indeterminate positions.

I would like to request the Premier to commit to giving a directive to cabinet to make a concerted effort to convert casuals to permanent positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are no commitments to be made, in my opinion, because we are doing that. As the Minister of Community and Government Services stated not too long ago, over 500 casual employees have been put on into indeterminate positions, and we are doing that.

If there's a long-term casual filling in for an indeterminate job, many times that person gets direct appointed to that position. If the work is satisfactory and

the qualifications are equivalent, then we put casual workers into these positions. Each individual department deals with that. I as a Premier don't deal overall about casuals, but we as cabinet do our best to get long-term casuals direct appointed into a position if they have been doing that job for a while and if they are good at the job.

Another positive effect of casuals is that you can hire someone to do a casual job and they get the experience and the knowledge to put on their resumé and the experience to qualify for an indeterminate job. Sometimes we have casuals on for a while because they're the right candidate and a suitable candidate for that job and they're a beneficiary.

We do our best to clear up the casuals, but it's something that we need to do in order for us to run our government to provide the services for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier has indicated that he believes that a commitment is not required. I unfortunately disagree. I do believe that a cabinet directive is required. I believe the Premier needs to give direction to cabinet to ensure that each department and agency and all of the program managers are receiving instruction to increase the transition of casuals to permanent positions.

In the past the number of direct

appointments per year has fluctuated. It is a very political decision how many direct appointments there will be, which does require a commitment of cabinet and a directive of the Premier or the minister responsible for the *Public Service Act*.

I would like to again request the Premier to commit to creating a cabinet directive to the ministers to ensure that there will be a concerted effort to increase the number of transfers of our long-term casuals to term or indeterminate employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I informed the member just a few minutes ago, we are doing that and the member might not believe this, but some casuals don't want to become indeterminate. They like the freedom at times to take extended periods of time off. That may be small, but there are some that are like that.

The casual nurses that we hire from the south, I don't think they want to be permanent nurses here. Otherwise they would apply for those permanent jobs. There are instances where this would not work at all, but we are doing a conservative effort here to clear up all the long-term casuals that we have.

In order to direct appoint a casual to a position, the position has to be funded, the position has to be vacant, and the casual has to be qualified to go in there. If those conditions are met and this person is a beneficiary, because most of the direct appointments are beneficiaries, there are a few that are non-

beneficiaries, but the bulk of the direct appointments from casuals are beneficiaries.

We can't just go around and take in all the casuals and making them permanent because, as the members have pointed out on many occasions, we only have so much money. We have to use it wisely. We have to make sure that it's used well. Some of these casuals are short term to fill in positions that are not funded or a need that is there. We are doing that.

As cabinet we are making direct appointments to long-term casuals that fit the conditions I just talked about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 391 – 5(2): Decentralized Positions

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Good day, my colleagues. I say "good day" to the people of Pangnirtung.

My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Human Resources.

I am pleased that as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Pangnirtung, our decentralized community has one of the highest rates of Inuit employment in Nunavut at just over 70 percent. It's something to be proud of as Pangnirtung is a (interpretation ends) decentralized community.

(interpretation) However, I remain concerned that there are still over 50 vacant full-time positions in the community. Looking at the current job

postings online, there are five positions out for competition when there are over 50 vacant positions.

My question for the minister is: can the minister indicate what barriers are preventing departments from advertising their vacant positions in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. I am also pleased that there are that many Inuit employees in Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, in speaking about employment and human resources, this is all preparatory as I have yet to sit in that seat, although I am getting ready to sit in that role. Now, as I read more briefing notes on the issues related to employment positions or PYs that are being created, they are impacted by different factors. The positions can be impacted by the budget limitations, as they require operational funding beforehand. If funding is allocated, then when it opens, they search for potential candidates as they also need to open the competition.

Also, the different criteria that apply to different positions have to be considered. Some positions have housing while others don't. There are quite a number of factors that go into each position for consideration prior to any opening of a job position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are numerous staff housing units currently vacant in our community. I want to ask about this next. I am totally aware that the minister isn't officially in his role under HR and I know he is just becoming familiar with the issues. Can the minister indicate how his new department plans to address the issue of long-standing vacant positions in decentralized communities? How committed will the minister be to filling these positions while fulfilling this new mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad you asked about this matter.

There are various factors associated with particular job opportunities, although we have many kinds of career opportunities within the government. It also depends on the department that has that job opening, for example, conservation officers or teachers, among others that can provide employment. We will meet individually with each department to review each position that isn't open but is already identified as specific to that community, such as Pangnirtung. There would be a set number of positions allocated.

The department that will be looking for employees will be whom we meet with to discuss the various challenges. This would also be an opportunity to ask them about the positions identified as to how they will handle the opening of the position, when they anticipate filling the

position, as well as working with Minister of Finance to fund the opening position. Many details have to be finalized prior to opening any PY. This is why we feel that we need to review each position individually.

We will work with other departments and municipalities. We want to fill these positions and to also deal with our workers in casual positions to try to make them permanent. This will not take an inordinate amount of time. I believe we can proceed with this initiative to fill positions with employees and to finalize the details for the positions in the government. This mandate will not be easy, but at least we can make some progress on this front, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that the government had a total of 840 casual employees as of December 31, 2018. However, the report does not provide a clear community breakdown of casual employment. Will the minister commit to ensuring that future editions of the report include this information? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to being able to provide that kind of information in the future. I'll work with all the departments within the government and see if we

can't get that information in detail and provide it in the following reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 392 – 5(2): Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects

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

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I want to revisit the issue of the upcoming district heating system project in Sanikiluaq.

As the minister will recall, the federal government announced funding in September of last year for new district heating systems in the communities of Sanikiluaq and Taloyoak.

In her recent return to the questions that I asked her earlier in our sitting, the minister indicated that the Sanikiluaq project "will commence in April 2019 with an expected completion date of 2021."

Can the minister confirm when the tender for the project was issued? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon to my constituents and all Nunavummiut.

Unfortunately I don't have that information for you, but I can get the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As she doesn't have any details on the contract, I think it's going to be difficult for me to get an answer on my next question, but I'll try anyway.

During yesterday's sitting of the House, we had an extensive discussion about local labour requirements for Nunavut Housing Corporation projects. Can the minister indicate what the minimum local labour content requirements will be for the Qulliq Energy Corporation's district heating project in Sanikiluaq? Can she indicate if the project will provide opportunities for local residents to gain specialized training during the construction phase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member is right; I don't have a specific number, but I can tell you right now that I will push for a higher number for Inuit employment, and I will ensure that the Inuit who are working on this project will have the opportunity for training and future advancement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing these details in

the contract when it comes.

As the minister will recall, the federal announcement concerning the proposed purpose of this project is to "...capture residual heat from power generation and provide space and hot-water heating to nearby commercial and institutional buildings." Can the minister clarify how many buildings in Sanikiluaq will benefit from this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) So far I know that there are two buildings. There are the two schools that I had mentioned. Unfortunately, again, I don't have what other buildings will be connected to the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 393 – 5(2): Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my colleagues, our Premier, residents of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, this question I wish to ask is similar to my colleague from Hudson Bay's question, as Taloyoak is also using this new heating system as well, which was recently completed. I am unsure if I will receive a response, but I will try again to ask my question, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister will recall, the federal government announced funding in September of last year for a new district hearing system in the communities of Taloyoak and Sanikiluaq. The purpose of these alternative energy projects is to "...capture residual heat from power generation and provide space and hot-water heating to nearby commercial and institutional buildings." This in turn will "help reduce the territory's diesel-fuel consumption and cut carbon emissions."

Can the minister indicate when the tender for the Taloyoak project will be issued? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. At this time I don't have information on the tendering process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will expect that information tomorrow or soon, as I anticipate an announcement being made regarding the project being undertaken in Taloyoak.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate what the minimum local labour

content requirement will be for the Qulliq Energy Corporation's district heating project in Taloyoak, and can she indicate if the project will also provide opportunities for local residents to gain training and apprenticeship hours during the construction phase? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Mr. Qirngnuq, for your question. As I stated earlier, the details of the contract or the tendering of the project has not been worked on yet, but I can assure the member that, as I stated to Mr. Rumbolt, I will push for a higher Inuit employment and ensure that those that we do hire, the Inuit that we do hire will have the opportunity to train and advance to further their careers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify how many buildings in Taloyoak will be connect to the new district heating system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The following buildings that will be connected to the district heating system in Taloyoak are the Netsilik School, the Moses Kigutaq Pool, Lyall

Construction garage, and two hamlet garages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 394 – 5(2): Vacant Positions in Baker Lake

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, under the decentralized model under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, Qulliq Energy Corporation headquarters is based in Baker Lake, Nunavut. How many employment opportunities are currently vacant at the Baker Lake headquarters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this time I don't have the number of positions that are vacant in Baker Lake, but I can get the information for him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I encourage the minister to seriously consider the vacant positions and once she finds out the results as to how many are vacant, can the minister make a commitment to at least have half

of those vacant positions advertised in the new fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I stated earlier, I will make a commitment to give you the list of how many vacant positions are in Baker Lake, but going through the advertising process, I can't commit right now to tell you that half of those positions will be advertised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to encourage the minister, when she is looking at considering advertising these vacant positions, to also take into consideration in the new fiscal year, so that beneficiaries from our communities can actually benefit from these vacancies and take on these vacant positions, to also consider intern positions for the vacancies at the headquarters of the Qulliq Energy Corporation in Baker Lake, some as intern positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm not going to commit to something that I don't have a lot of information on, but I can assure you that as the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, I totally agree with what all

the members are saying, that our positions within our departments should have more than 50 percent of Inuit employees and those casual positions should be filled by people who are willing to stay in those positions instead of having people working from continuing from casual to casual to casual. I will work towards filling the Qulliq Energy Corporation with Inuit employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Question 395 – 5(2): Income Assistance Reforms

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Family Services.

It was back in 2018 when the regulations were revised in July. The report outlines the results of the study on how income support funding can be improved to allow for personal development. Now, many residents of Nunavut apply for and receive income support. Further, when a person reaches the age of 18, they are eligible to receive this support.

I would like to ask the minister about this study that was looking to amend the income support program. What is the status of this program review based on the July 2018 revision of the regulations? What's the status of that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your question. (interpretation ends) Yes, the reform has been ongoing. I can say that since July 2018 my department has implemented a number of changes to increase the amount of benefits to Nunavummiut that they receive. Our budget was approved but also increased for single youth. Youth are getting more now because they are single. They're actually getting more income as a part of this reform.

I'm sure we also have heard in the last little bit there are the productive choices. Under productive choices, we encourage income assistance recipients to participate in opportunities, such as wellness programs, education, training, volunteering, or work experience to gain a greater degree of self-resilience and financial independence. There is also the G.R.E.A.T. G.R.E.A.T. is a 14-week training and experience program with partnership with Arctic College.

I must say it's not under income support, but we also actually are partnering with hamlets now for a youth employment program. It's a pilot project. Out of that there are two youths now employed in two municipalities, but we certainly are working to try to build through the reform how to better make our recipients more resilient. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, any resident over 18 years on the verge of adulthood are capable of being productively employed.

My question relates more to this area.

As an example, with the overall numbers of income support clients, many of them are capable of gainful employment as they are young and healthy. It is like a disincentive to get employed. In my eyes, it should be promoting clients towards gainful employment, as this would have more tangible benefits by being employed and not just an income support client.

Young people are fully capable of working odd jobs and such. What can the minister tell the members, as the youth/young adults are a majority of the income support clientele, about the work options or personal development options under this responsibility of the minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) The G.R.E.A.T. program is not just training but it actually allows work experience program incorporated into that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear, but I want more clarification, as this year they have submitted a proposal to increase the funds for income support.

What I want to hear tidbits about is based on what she referenced about the G.R.E.A.T. program, which is

specifically geared towards training and employment opportunities. Has this G.R.E.A.T program led to a lowering in the number of income support clientele? I mean specifically the program for our young people for training and employment opportunities. Has this led to a decrease in the numbers? Is it lower because it is designed for work as the basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you. (interpretation ends) The G.R.E.A.T. program has, I believe, been very successful since its creation in 2015 to today. For all of Nunavut there have been 306 participants through this G.R.E.A.T. program of 14 weeks. Out of them, 200 have successfully completed the program, more than half. I think it is successful. G.R.E.A.T. is a great program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 396 – 5(2): We Are All Teachers

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, the minister has indicated that his department will be implementing a new educator recruitment strategy to address teacher shortages and to support Inuit employment targets.

Can the minister clarify whether his recruitment strategy includes employing Inuit from our communities who may not be certified teachers but are perfectly capable of teaching in our schools?
Koana, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. Yes, we are looking at targeting Inuit for teaching positions in our schools and looking at such resources as substitute teachers, as an example. They already have some experience in the classroom on a very short-term relief basis, but I think there's potential there that we can try to see where we can hire more Inuit.

In addition to that, we want to increase the number of opportunities that our current language specialists specifically and Inuit teachers and/or employees have in potentially ladder into obtaining professional qualifications to become fully qualified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana, Mr. Speaker.* It is well known that Nunavut has a shortage of teachers. The minister has indicated that he wishes to support his department's Inuit Employment Plan efforts, especially in the area of bilingual education.

Would the minister consider employing more local Inuit to teach in our schools

to promote and support more bilingual education? *Koana, Mr. Speaker.*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. We are on that path to trying to recruit more and more bilingual teachers. The challenge partly to do with that is that any teacher or any person for that matter who speaks the Inuit language aren't necessarily able to teach it, so it's a specialized skill to be able to teach in the language.

With that, we do want to hire as many bilingual teachers as possible. Again, it gives me an opportunity to throw out that invitation to Nunavummiut to contact our department on how you can go on that path to become a teacher. We want to also recruit right from high school to get them prepared and trained to become teachers if they so choose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana, Mr. Speaker.* I understand that from time to time our government uses "Letters of Authority" to hire individuals into positions even though they do not hold the formal certification usually required for the job. These letter of authority authorizations have been used to hire early child care workers, social workers, and, I believe, school educators.

Will the minister commit to consider using more "Letter of Authority" authorizations to hire more Inuit from

our communities to increase the number of bilingual educators in our schools?
Koana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now we are in preliminary discussions on looking at training another cohort of language specialists. They have skills to teach in the Inuit language. We want to partner with other organizations to develop more language specialists.

With that, to go along with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values, our department, we do have a process to certify *Innait Inuksiutilirijiit*, or traditional/cultural experts. Every local district education authority can recommend cultural experts to our department that we certify and make available to the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 397 – 5(2): Property Damaged by Wildlife

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, we know of and more so in our community where our hunters have no local job opportunities. We have many hunters in our community and many are full-time hunters only who try to supplement their income with

furbearers. Quite a few hunters depend solely on the sales of their harvested furs; primarily seal pelts and the sales of sealskins. Many hunters are in that situation in our community, with no job prospects available.

Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned on occasion, some properties of these full-time hunters, such as their cabins and snowmobiles, suffer attacks from polar bears that are looking for food. Our community suffers a huge influx of polar bears every fall season, sometimes resulting in yearly damage inflicted by polar bears on anything left in the open.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister can provide clarification on when the cabins those hunters reside in during their harvesting trips suffer damages, especially in light of the very expensive replacement costs of the materials that also need to be rebuilt for the cabin to be inhabitable. When cabins suffer polar bear damages, although they may have been expensive to build, are no longer inhabitable due to the damage caused.

Does this so-called assistance fund have an upper limit? How much can the hunter receive in compensation? Is there a ceiling that the hunter can be compensated for a damaged building/cabin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know that there are a lot of polar bears around his community and also in Arviat. When a cabin is destroyed by a polar bear, please go to the wildlife office and fill out a

form to be compensated for the destruction of your cabin.

Again, there's another pilot program available for hunters where people with cabins can access funds to better protect their cabins and their equipment by possibly putting a fence around it, securing the windows and the door.

There are two programs for hunters to apply. Funds are available that a hunter can get compensated for or to get monies to better protect their property. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We make sure that the cabins and properties are well secured, but some do yet again get destroyed by polar bears. The question I was trying to ask is: is there a limit on the amount of monies that a hunter can access or is there insurance available so that they can rebuild their cabin or property? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't find the exact document that lists the limit, but there is a limit. If I remember correctly, there's a \$1,000 limit and it's a one-time use. I can't find the paper in front of me to confirm, but I think the limit is at \$1,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The forms have to be filled out to make sure that there was actual destruction of their cabin. There is no other way around that. It is stated in the forms that the conservation officer has to take a picture of the destroyed cabin or property, but some communities do not have conservation officers for extended periods of time. If an individual or hunter takes the picture themselves, could that be used as evidence in the same way the conservation's officer is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is no conservation officer in a specific community, the hunter can take the picture and it can be used as evidence. Take a picture, put the date and time that you took the picture, and it can be used as evidence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note the time for question period has expired. Ms. Angnakak.

Motion 028 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

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

you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and question period is now extended for an additional 30 minutes starting now.

Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Question 398 – 5(2): Mine Training Programs

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Arctic College.

I want to ask about this matter, as Baffinland has hired several constituents of mine to work at the Mary River mine, and I am proud of them. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin with this preamble. We are now seeing more mining projects beginning in Nunavut.

Our new mine training centre, I believe, is under the jurisdiction of Nunavut Arctic College. My question is: how many Nunavummiut took mine training last year? I wonder if the minister can respond to that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. Arctic College does provide mine training, and I believe it was in December when 12 students graduated in Rankin Inlet. All of them were reported to have completed their training, which makes me quite proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his adequate response. I have another question for the minister. I would like to understand: how much funding is set aside for the mine training centre and how much was spent in the last fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We receive third party funding for mine training and it is not funded by the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to learn more about the amounts.

This will be my final question. Since these are some of the only employment opportunities for residents of our community and quite a few residents now work there, I want to ask this question again specific to mine training.

Baffinland has identified the five communities prioritized for hiring. I wonder if the minister knows if the mine training modules... . It is linked to the lack of employment opportunities. Is it possible to have mine training more visible at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I share that distinction of also being a resident of a smaller community. Residents of Coral Harbour and Naujaat also work in Rankin Inlet and quite a few residents work at the mine. Employment really provides enhancement of opportunities to non-decentralized communities.

Mr. Speaker, we would like to make sure that there is training available for young people if they are interested in working in the mining sector, and it will be a part of our plans, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 399 – 5(2): Dementia Strategy Update

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be asking questions to a minister that hasn't been asked questions yet, to the Minister of Health.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the issue of elder care is one that we have discussed a number of times in this House.

While there are many aspects to elder care that must be addressed, it seems that when it comes to dementia care specifically, there are a number of gaps.

I heard my colleague from Gjoa Haven stating that some dementia-specific training was recently provided in his community for elder care workers, and that's very good news.

Can the minister provide an update on

what his department is doing to develop a dementia strategy cover the gaps in care for this specific area of elder health needs across this territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the question. Through our discussions and through the review of the Partnership BC report, it is going to give us an indication of what communities are going to be suitable to promote elder care facilities and partnerships therein. Those will be the focus of initial forays into education of staff for those facilities to be able to treat different levels of care, including dementia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate that there are a lot of reviews and everything going on, but lately we've had a lot of those kinds of answers. We don't really get any answers because everything is in a review and I remember, I think the last Assembly, we had this problem too. I do appreciate things need to be evaluated, and I'm really hoping that you can come back to us with some of these questions that we've had.

Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that Nunavut has very limited access to cognitive evaluation services and as a result, when it comes to the diagnosis of dementia, the level of care is very fragmented.

Can the minister clarify what steps are taken to assist families in getting access to dementia diagnosis and treatment services for their elderly family members as well as support for the family caregivers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many different players in the health care field and diagnosis of the example she gives of dementia. There are so many different resources in the community for home care, family interactions with health care professionals in our health centres. There are many different players that identify and work towards the assessment ratings.

There are different categories of levels of care that are needed. As they go through the health care system, those resources are utilized to substantiate what level of care would be needed, and then we work with our Continuing Care Division to make sure that those residents are put into a facility that can meet that level of care, whether it be in territory or permanently out of territory.

I will have to say that I do echo the member's comments on reviews. I have spoken many times on how frustrating it is to wait for a review and it's frustrating for me to be able to know where to allocate resources to make improvements. I look forward to that review being completed and acting on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the understanding of the minister, where we're coming from.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the majority of our elders who are currently in such facilities as Embassy West in Ottawa are there because they require a more comprehensive level of service, as the minister indicated, than what is available in Nunavut, with many of them suffering from dementia.

Will the minister commit to working with his federal counterparts to access federal funding to be used towards keeping more of our elders at home by supporting more dementia diagnosis, treatment, and supports within the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, one of the things that we do partner with the federal government on, they help provide some funding, limited as it is, to provide home care, which helps people stay in the communities longer, but when a level of care need is diagnosed, in this case, in the situation that we're currently in where we have to send people out to facilities such as Embassy West, I have spoken about this to my federal counterparts and will continue to do so to keep raising this as an ongoing issue.

As our population ages, statistics show that more and more...there's a percentage of aging people that do encounter needs of dementia care. As

our population ages, as it increases, it's going to create more burdens on families and communities on being able to provide this care. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in all levels of government, from municipal to federal to territorial, to partnerships with other organizations so that we can provide more care in the territory. I'm open to any and all partnerships and suggestions, and I will continue to highlight this as a need for Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Question 400 – 5(2): Orientation of Health Staff

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. My question is also for the Minister of Health. I also thank you for recognizing me.

I recognize and we have all heard that there's a nursing shortage throughout Nunavut. We hear concerns from the communities as elected members, especially with health being an important issue in Nunavut. We rely on temporary agency nurses to fill in on short notice and sometimes nurses arrive without much time to get to know the people or the community.

My first question is: what kind of orientation is provided to temporary agency nurses or nurses who move into communities on Inuit culture or what the situation is in a community?
(interpretation ends) What kind of orientation are the nurses given when they get into a community?

(interpretation) 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. I welcome the question. I have spoken a couple of times in the last two weeks on how the Department of Health has created an orientation program for our nurses, of which we have just gone through the second one here in Iqaluit, I'm going to say, a month or a month and a half ago where I had the pleasure of speaking to a contingent of nurses that are just starting to work in the territory.

The orientation allows our current staff to be able to talk to new staff coming on board of what to expect in different size communities, the opportunities that are available to interact with community members, how important it is to understand some of the history of Nunavut, some of the historical traumas, how important it is to keep family engaged. I don't have the whole curriculum of the orientation program, but it's just one of many steps that we're working on to attract and retain nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was referencing was the fact that our constituents frequently relay concerns when they feel they haven't been treated fairly, and health challenges within Nunavut continues to be problematic with many concerns expressed in that context. It usually relates to lack of

treatment, misunderstanding, and sometimes it is the patient who misunderstands the matter.

What I want to question the minister on is regarding nurses arriving for the first time to a community. They are committed and work hard, but I want to ask about unilingual Inuit who require interpreters or other health centre staff. I want to ask about this issue. When a problem occurs over a patient in the community, how does the health centre staff work with the family members to ensure that wrong assumptions or mentally stressful misunderstandings don't occur between the patient and the staff?

Further, how does the health centre work with the nurses to ensure they work with Inuit employees to ensure there are no misunderstandings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I spoke earlier on orientation and a number of different initiatives of training and development, respect in the workplace is a key, integral part of making sure that any new nursing or any health care professional has a level of expectation. There's performance management, leadership skills, health and safety.

To go directly to the member's question on how to work with local staff, with the clerk interpreter positions within our staff, custodial staff, whenever I visit a health centre, especially one that's thriving and showing a lot of initiative and success in the community, where it's

a health care team, I have often said and I have often been heard saying, "I don't care if you're a physician at the QGH or a clerk interpreter in Pangnirtung or a custodian in Whale Cove. You're part of the health care team. Your responsibility is to meet the level of expectations that our clients go in and expect when they go into a health centre."

I can't re-emphasize enough how important it is for all people in a health centre to make sure that they understand each other's roles, openly communicate, address any concerns that come up, and if they need to be escalated, escalate it up the ladder. There are regional directors that can help and have helped health centres to clarify roles and clarify expectations. It's an ongoing process, but I strongly encourage anyone working in any of our health centres to make sure that they just communicate.

I found that in 90 percent of the issues that we deal with failures of meeting the expectations, communication is the root issue. If we continue to communicate and relay our expectations in a professional manner, we will find solutions to these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly believe in what the minister is saying. Communication and understanding are important. As residents of our communities, we understand that due to the nursing shortage, nurses put in long hours and that burnout is a serious issue. However, I also understand that as Nunavummiut,

we should be receiving the same level of care so that we can lead healthy lives, especially if we have a long-term illness.

My question for the minister is: how does the Department of Health review the operations at our health centres, including reviewing cases especially where there are changing diagnoses... ? (interpretation ends) I'll explain this in English. Can the minister describe how his department reviews the operations at our health centres, including reviewing cases especially where there are changing diagnoses and reviewing what medications people are getting, to find ways to improve our health system in Nunavut, especially to the people in our communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sincerely thank the member. Thank you.

When we're looking at changing diagnoses as an example, one of the things that have been a common question to me is: how do I go about getting a second opinion? Sometimes diagnoses do change. That is the responsibility of the supervisor of health, the SHP in the health centre, the head nurse, other people call them. They're responsible for making sure that the diagnoses, the charting and everything is complete, and then the next layer from that would be the regional executive director, and then going on to the assistant deputy minister level to oversee to make sure that those "reportings" are done at a regional level. There are a number of different layers.

Again, I have said it often and I'll say it again, if somebody is out there that feels they're not getting the level of service that they expect, I strongly encourage them to contact our Office of Patient Relations or through myself through the member to bring forward their concerns. I know almost every member here has brought forward concerns to me on behalf of constituents and I think you all agree that I act "expediously" with them and I may not always give the answer that everyone likes, but at the same time I can assure members that I take all concerns that are brought to my attention, as does our Office of Patient Relations take very seriously any concerns that are brought forward to them.

I thank the member for raising that as an issue and I hope everyone watching or paying attention to the proceedings, if they do have an issue, to go through the appropriate channels to lodge their concern. Thank you.

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

Question 401 – 5(2): Point of Clarification of Previous Question

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Earlier when I was asking questions to the minister or actually the future minister responsible for HR, he seemed to misunderstand my question as it was reversed.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my question was twisted and he said it does not sound like two-thirds to the minister.

I was talking about 516 employees in Rankin Inlet; 100 casuals in two departments.

There are only two departments in Rankin Inlet that I was speaking to the Department of Health or the Department of Community and Government Services. Two-thirds of those 100 casuals work for those two departments. I wanted to clarify my question and get it done properly. I don't really have a question; I wanted to say that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

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

Committee Report 010 – 5(2): Bill 20, Interim Language of Instruction Act

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 20, *Interim Language of Instruction Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 20 will be put on the order paper for Thursday, March 7.

Tabling of Documents. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 132 – 5(2): Enrolment Audit of the Iqaluit District Education Authority at Education June 28, 2018

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the Enrolment Audit of the Iqaluit District Education Authority dated June 28, 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Members, I four documents to table today:

Tabled Document 133 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Financial Statements under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund

Tabled Document 134 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Financial Statements under the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund

Tabled Document 135 – 5(2): 2016-2017 Pension Administration Report under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act

Tabled Document 136 – 5(2): 2017-2018 Pension Administration Report under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act

- (interpretation ends) The 2017-18

financial statements under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund;

- The 2017-18 financial statements under the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund;
- The 2016-17 Pension Administration Report under the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*; and
- The 2017-18 Pension Administration Report under the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

(interpretation) Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 029 – 5(2): Extension of Review Period for Bill 1, Corrections Act – Notice

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, March 7, 2019, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 1 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat

North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Motion 030 – 5(2): Extension of Review Period of Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act – Notice

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, March 7, 2019, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded again by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North- Chesterfield Inlet, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 8 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, and 18 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 17 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:50 and Committee resumed at 16:21

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon. Welcome back, 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 13, 15, 16, 17, and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 main estimates, starting with the Department of Family Services, followed by the Department of Justice, and if time permits, we will deal with the departments of Economic Development and Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 15 and the Department of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 –
Family Services – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Sheutiapik: do you have witnesses that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you permit, yes, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the

committee agree to have the witnesses enter the Chamber? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Sheutiapik, if you could introduce your witnesses and then please continue on into your opening comments. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To my right is Deputy Minister Yvonne Niego and to my left is Assistant Deputy Minister Sol Vardy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee of the Whole, I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the proposed 2019-2020 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Family Services.

Itsivautaaq, for 2019-2020, the Department of Family Services is proposing an operating budget of \$157,319,000, which will represent an increase of 2.7 percent, or \$4,106,000, over last year's main estimates. The department's staff complement increased from [236.7] PYs in 2018-19 to 240.3 PYs in the proposed 2019-2020 main estimates. This increase will allow the department to provide the range of programs and services that promote the well-being and [self-reliance] of Nunavummiut, and to prepare individuals for meaningful work through employment readiness programming and

supports.

Children and Family Services Branch

The Children and Family Services Branch has been allocated \$64.9 million of the department's proposed 2019-2020 operating budget. This branch provides a broad range of support services for children, families, and vulnerable adults who may require protection or other specialized support. The division also provides emergency intervention as well as prevention programs to address domestic and family violence.

We have recommended an increase of \$673,000 in the 2019-2020 budget for family violence services. This funding will enhance frontline cross-sector coordination to support individuals and families at high risk of harm due to escalating family violence. We will also expand emergency supports by augmenting current staffing levels for family violence shelters and by offering more training opportunities and resources as part of an effort to increase the number of safe homes in our territory.

Additionally, the department is recommending allocating an additional \$120,000 to the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council. This organization is a key partner working to improve the status of women through research, awareness, and advocacy and the funding will allow the council to hire an additional PY required to help fulfill its mandate.

The department recognizes the important role that foster parents play in Nunavut. Providing foster families with appropriate support results in stable

placements and better outcomes for children and youth. Last year three foster care coordinator positions were approved and an additional \$104,000 in 2019-2020 will help continue their work in strengthening the Foster Home Program.

Income Assistance Branch

The Income Assistance Branch has been allocated \$62.1 million of the department's proposed operating budget for 2019-2020. Income Assistance includes a variety of benefit programs that provide financial assistance to people 18 years of age and older and their dependants.

The branch is undertaking its second phase of income assistance reforms to simplify benefits and to ensure that they cover basic living expenses. The department is providing an additional \$2,065,000 to the branch, which was approved as part of last year's budget of \$8,265,000 to accomplish the improvements.

Further, a new internally funded income assistance verification and investigation officer position in Rankin Inlet is recommended in the proposed budget for 2019-2020. This position will provide support to the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions in reviewing and recommending the approval of new applicants and the issuance of emergency benefits.

Career Development Branch

The Career Development Branch has been allocated \$17.6 million of the department's proposed 2019-2020 operating budget. This branch employs career development officers in all

regions to promote employment training programs, to administer funding to clients for these programs, and to offer career counselling services. Career Development delivers the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) Program, which provides funding for students to attend post-secondary education. The branch is also responsible for the Nunavut Apprenticeship Certification Unit, which oversees the certification of apprentices and journeypersons in the territory.

Corporate Management Branch

The Corporate Management Branch has been allocated \$12.7 million of the department's proposed operating budget for 2019-2020. This branch is responsible for overall management support to the department, setting direction and leadership in the key areas of strategic planning, policy development, Inuit employment and human resources planning, systems management, financial planning, as well as the Office of the Public Guardian.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, this proposed operating budget would allow the department to begin its path to addressing commitments of *Turaaqtavut* while completing previous reforms that had been identified. It would improve our ability to provide care and to support Nunavummiut as they work toward achieving the vision of Nunavummiut living with a sense of personal well-being.

I would be happy to respond to questions from members of the Committee of the Whole on the proposed 2019-2020 main

estimates and business plan of the Department of Family Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to note as well with the opening comments the minister made, apparently she missed a page, page 5 of 6.

Chairman: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk, for that note. We will just confirm here.

Ms. Sheutiapik, if you could please refer to the page that you missed. Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you to the member for pointing that out. (interpretation) I apologize.

(interpretation ends) Page 5 reads:

The department provides a range of support services to vulnerable Nunavummiut through its Guardianship Program. The Public Guardian, whose main role is to make decisions about personal and health matters for those who, in the court's decision, are unable to make such decisions independently, currently has 274 active files and receives approximately 84 new referrals each year. The Public Guardianship will be receiving an additional \$234,000 as part of last year's \$935,000 approval for additional staff and coverage of legal

and assessment costs.

Corporate Management has also taken over the function of family services clients travel effective October 1 of 2018, so accordingly \$74,000 is recommended for a client travel coordinator position in Rankin Inlet in the proposed budget for 2019-2020.

The Poverty Reduction Division has been allocated an additional amount of \$1,160,000 in the proposed 2019-2020 budget in order to address homeless challenges in Nunavut. An amount of \$998,000 will provide additional support to core operations of emergency homeless shelters throughout the territory. \$162,000 will support work to advocate for and facilitate the creation of transitional housing in the territory, in part through the creation of a new transitional housing coordinator position. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Nakashuk, if you could proceed with your opening comments, please. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have reviewed the 2019-2020 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Family Services.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Family Services is just over \$157 million for 2019-2020, which represents an increase of approximately \$4 million over the department's approved budget for 2018-19.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services coordinates and delivers Nunavut's income assistance programs which are directed towards assisting families, adult individuals, and seniors in meeting their basic needs. Members were pleased to note that recent increases to income assistance benefits have taken into account the rise in the cost of living, putting more money into the pockets of those who most need it. While members appreciate that a significant amount of research and data collection was involved in calculating the revisions to income assistance benefits, members encourage the department to undertake such revisions on a regular basis as well as keeping track of trends in the distribution of income assistance benefits.

Members were pleased to note that the department has been working to simplify the income assistance program delivery and to support individuals who are working towards employment opportunities. Members are in full support of the revised criteria for allocating emergency benefits to those in need.

Committee members noted, however, that the appeals process for individuals who feel their requests for income assistance have been wrongly assessed needs further clarification. The standing committee would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of income support workers across the territory in doing what can often be a stressful job.

Mr. Chairman, the Child and Family Services Division of the Department of Family Services provides a wide range of support services for children and vulnerable adults, including providing

emergency intervention in cases of domestic violence, protecting the rights of children, youth, families and vulnerable individuals, and advocating for the interests of vulnerable members of Nunavut society. Committee members continue to look forward to updates on the work being performed and successes achieved by the department's new foster care coordinator positions.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services provides funding and resources for the operation of shelter programs across Nunavut. The issue of family violence is a major concern across the territory. Members are in full support of increased funding for shelter programs to address additional staffing, training and resources needs. It has been noted that many communities are not only without a shelter, but many lack even a 'safe house' where individuals can go to escape dangerous situations until travel to a shelter can be arranged. Members urge the minister to work with her staff to explore options for increasing the number of safe houses in our communities.

Members of the standing committee have noted that in 2019-2020, Family Services will create a new transitional housing coordinator position. Additional support for emergency homeless shelters will be very welcome as local groups and societies work hard to ensure that shelter and services are provided to the homeless in their communities. Members further encourage the department to work closely with the Department of Health with respect to transitional housing initiatives across the territory, particularly in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee was pleased to note that, for the first time in many years, the Qullit Status of Women Council will receive an increase to its contribution funding. Members look forward to future updates on the progress of the Status of Women Council in achieving its mandate through research, awareness, and advocacy.

The Department of Family Services, in conjunction with the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College, administers a number of programs and resources related to adult and post-secondary learning. The department also administers financial assistance programs such as FANS, Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students, and the Adult Learning and Training Supports Program, which provide important support to individuals seeking to further their education. The committee supports the department to its efforts to find ways to encourage local employers to train and hire locally.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Before we begin, I would like to advise members that as Chair, I will use my discretion and recognize members only once for each page of the branch. Thank you. I will start by asking if any members have any general comments and keep them brief if you can, please. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I came here,

I researched from my constituents as to how they would like to see things for income support recipients.

Also, when I was on the radio in the Kivalliq, an elder told me that people come to their home to eat at the end of the month when they get their pensions from Canada. The elder told me to mention that the financial assistance that they get from the Government of Nunavut should be considered much more. People come to the elders' homes to go eat monthly or even daily and they have their own little pensions that they receive.

The elders were wondering if the pension that they receive from the federal government can be increased. I know that it's under the responsibility of the Canadian government, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to bring that matter to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to reiterate this, as the minister stated that (interpretation ends) foster parents (interpretation) are under the mandate of Family Services.

We recently heard that the federal government wants to introduce Bill C-92. I think it's Bill C-92. It's (interpretation ends) indigenous child welfare legislation (interpretation) and it states that the indigenous people should be taking jurisdiction over those matters.

There's \$140,000 in the 2019-2020 year, which is an increase in funding. What is the collection to this and I will be asking

questions pertaining to the issue to the minister, the (interpretation ends) indigenous child welfare legislation, Bill C-92, (interpretation) how it will affect Nunavut and I will checking up on this issue from time to time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. We will now move on and we're dealing with Family Services in the main estimates on page L-4. We will first deal with Corporate Management. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

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

(interpretation ends) Within the department, how many different computer systems do they manage? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: *Itsivautaaq*, through you, we have four systems. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I didn't hear what you said; there was some kind of interference with the microphone. Can you try again, Minister Sheutiapik? It may be your phone; if you can move it away from the microphone. Minister.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, we have four systems. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering whether or not this old program is still being used towards educational purposes. I would like that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The oldest system that is of use right now is for the FANS program, the financial assistance program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have heard that this is indeed one of the oldest systems in existence when we were still in the NWT. This system was used back then, based on the information I have heard. I do know that yes, if it were part of capital, it would show, but it's more towards operational funding. Do they have any plans in place to upgrade the system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is a business case already that has been prepared, but it has to go through the process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Just to remind you, when you're conversing with your colleagues, if you could make sure the mute button is pushed in and held when you're talking. Okay? Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Right here on page 165 of the business plan it says, in this year, "Implement recommendations from the department's organizational review and establish structural changes." That sounds like some major changes that will be coming. If the minister could give us a brief overview of what types of major change will be happening within the department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Sorry, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Could you please repeat your question?

Chairman: Thank you. Could you please repeat your question, Mr. Main?

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Page 165 of the business plan, the first priority at the bottom of the page is "Implement recommendations from the department's organizational review and establish structural changes." What types of specific changes are we talking about? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are different options. Right now the department is reviewing its early stages of the implementation planning, after all this was established, as you stated, in 2013. It varies. The department remains guided by *Turaaqtavut*. Recognizing that, we're working toward well-being and resilience of our community. (interpretation) Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to begin with a statement made during the chair of the standing committee's opening remarks and something that I just raised in the Assembly last week.

As was stated by the chair of the standing committee, "It has been noted that many communities are not only without a shelter, but many lack even a 'safe house' where individuals can go to escape dangerous situations until travel to a shelter can be arranged. [Members] urge the minister to work with her staff to explore options for increasing the number of safe houses in our communities."

My first question would be to the minister: what is the minister exploring to increase the number of safe houses in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think a big part of that is the communications because a lot of people don't realize that if we don't, as Family Services, actually have the safe homes, through Justice there are safe homes, but they're not publicized. I think it's a better coordination of, if a person who goes to a social worker has issues, we can certainly help coordinate that, but I think people don't realize that better communication between us and the RCMP...because there are safe homes in every community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: how many government-funded safe homes are currently on the Department of Family Services list to receive funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently we have four communities funded through our department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you would like, they are Igloolik, Arviat, and two in Pond Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good that there are currently four, but it's unfortunate that

there aren't safe homes in every community. What specifically is the minister going to do to ensure that there are more safe homes in all of our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm realizing that we have to have a really strong business case going forward and obviously have a better understanding of how to prioritize the needs of our department, but it's the business cases as the end of the day that kind of predict where we're going to move forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Main. Sorry. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister give us a little bit of detail about how the four current safe homes operate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: Just bear with me; I've got to find that page.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The process is, for those safe homes we do have, they have approached Family Services in their interest to start the dialogue. Through that dialogue, obviously because it's a safe home, you

have to go through like a criminal record check, but it is individuals that approach us first when they have an interest. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's unfortunate that that's not widely known knowledge throughout our territory. I would like to make a recommendation to the minister to put out a call to our communities requesting individuals to privately come forward to the department to try to boost the number of safe homes in our communities. I think, when I asked the minister what her strategy is at increasing the number of safe homes, that's what I was trying to get from the minister. I would like to put forward that recommendation and would like to request the minister to commit to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I certainly commit to doing a bigger reaching out to communities maybe through our social work, through the local radio stations to encourage families to come forward to being a safe home.

Maybe people don't realize that there is \$200 a month that is given to safe homes, so that could be an incentive. I think it's known that safe homes do exist, but there hasn't been an interest. Maybe that \$200 a month could be an enticement for people to come forward

because they get it regardless of numbers of people that do come. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I'll move on to the next topic and it is clear, for emergency shelters for women fleeing violence, the need is there. It is clear, but what are not clear are the supports that are available to these women afterward. What I'm trying to say is: what strategy does the department have to ensure that these women and families have the supports needed to prevent them from feeling like they have to go back to the abusive relationships? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Although we don't have many shelters, those shelters that do provide that service certainly provide programming and we fund a lot of that, but each facility certainly knows where they're at when it comes to the programs they deliver. We certainly work closely. They meet quite regularly with each facility to ensure that once their needs are met, we understand and plan moving forward, but obviously if they had programs they want to deliver, it's a matter of writing a proposal to us because we certainly meet with them regularly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister

Sheutiapik. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments and the Minister of Finance's budget speech there was mention of \$2 million that was going to be put towards reducing domestic and family violence. In your opening comments there were a few mentions of it and different pots of money, but would you give us a breakdown of that \$2 million and where it's going to be used and how it's going to be supporting women and families fleeing domestic violence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For the additional funding that we were asking for in this, \$793,000 additional funding is for family violence shelter support and training initiatives. There is also \$1.16 million additional funding for the poverty reduction and homeless initiatives. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan there are many mentions of transition homes and feasibilities of establishing transitional housing. What is the long-term strategic goal of the Department of Family Services in establishing transitional housing in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone.

Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Obviously we just got funding for a transitional coordinator. A big part of this new PY is to do that research to come forward with, obviously, recommendations on findings to help us set a priority strategy for that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will that strategy include constructing, owning, and operating these facilities or would it include making funding available for organizations to then go and build their own facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. You're now talking about capital projects, but Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through the research of the coordinator, that outcome would be known. I can't predict what would be best to accommodate transitional housing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to sort of pick the minister's brain, so to speak, and enquire what the minister foresees sort

of achieving transitional housing in the territory. How would the minister like to go about ensuring that is accomplished? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think it's self-explanatory. Transitional housing is you're in a situation. Being in a violence shelter, obviously at some point you want to move out of it, so you're going into a transitional for a short period to be able to then have the opportunity to either be in social housing or market rental. I think that's a normal expectation for transitional housing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the minister didn't understand my question, but I'll move on to another question.

I recently received a tour of the Uquutaq Society's men's transitional home and think that what they're trying to accomplish is going to be a remarkable one and really change the lives for a lot of individuals. What surprised me the most is that the Uquutaq Society is a board of volunteers that have really put this all together. I would like to enquire how much support and what kinds of support the Department of Family Services has provided to the society in reaching where they are today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are part of the working group that's continually meeting on behalf of the Uquutaq Society. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going about opening a transitional home is no simple feat and does require a substantial amount of funding. I was curious: who was it that provided the funding necessary for the Uquutaq Society to purchase their facility? Was it all federal funding? Was it municipal funding? Was it territorial funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I do believe multi, but the bulk of it came from, I do believe, the CMHC. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked that question just because I was curious if the Government of Nunavut had made a contribution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone.

Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Our intent is in 2019-2020 we provide \$200,000, but we do provide annual contributions of the Uquutaq shelter on an annual basis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware that Family Services does provide some operational funding for the facility, but that \$200,000 that's going to be provided in 2019-2020, is that going to be going towards the purchase and renovation of the facility?

When another organization would like to open a facility in any community, will the Department of Family Services provide any sort of contributions toward that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, that \$200,000 is going to go towards the purchase of the building. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is regarding the senior fuel subsidy, which I believe is under Poverty Reduction, which falls

under Corporate Management. I'll go ahead and ask that question. I was curious: what does the Department of Family Services do to ensure that everyone eligible for this funding actually receives it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I do believe there is an annual... All our programs in the government do out a call to remind people that this subsidy is available. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware that the Department of Finance has a Property Tax Assessment Division, which also has a similar subsidy for seniors and elders. I was wondering if the Department of Family Services shares information with the Department of Finance to ensure that individuals are on both lists and, for example, everyone receiving the fuel subsidy is also receiving that property tax exemption and vice versa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's a great question, but I'm going to take that and run with it. I will certainly make

sure that does happen. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Income Assistance Act* was amended in 2017 following the department's report on the review and reform of income assistance and economic development. In July 2018 basic allowance benefits were increased and a sundries allowance benefit introduced for clients who were on medical or treatment facility. What further program or policy changes are currently being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The remaining reforms are No. 6, which is to "Coordinate Income Assistance with other income support programs"; Reform 8, "Explore changing eligibility for Income Assistance to 19"; Reform 11, "Improve access to other income supports and financial services"; and Reform 20, "Review internal roles and responsibilities for Income Assistance." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the department's ongoing priorities is to "Implement the department's Inuit Employment Plan..." What are the main challenges to successfully implementing this plan?

Koana, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would say, although it's a very challenging department, they deal with very stressful issues. They have a really good...75 percent are filled, of which 61 percent are Inuit. I was just so, excuse the term, "tickled pink."

Obviously when it comes to our challenge is when it comes to the higher positions. I'm the first one, since I have been a member of this government, I certainly support internship programs, but it shouldn't just be directors. I'm certainly pushing for entry level, what are we doing to continue on. Those are the kinds of discussions we've had as a department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you. Thank for your response. That's good news. The department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that the Nunavut Action Plan on Absolute Homelessness will be implemented in 2019-2020 and that additional resources will be developed for safe and affordable housing. Can you describe what some of these resources will be? *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Sorry, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Family Services provides funding to municipal governments and not-for-profit organizations that provide emergency shelters and support services. These are not the kind of things that obviously our department takes into consideration when it comes to homelessness because it's the communities that know best what their needs are. We work closely with the municipal governments to assist.

Also, we are in the midst of finalizing the two different "homelessness at point in time." The other one is we need to consider in the action prevention, increasing housing options, strengthening support services, and we can't forget our youthful homelessness because we talk about overcrowding and they're becoming young adults and they want to move and become independent. Those are not the kind of things that we're focusing on, on the main action plan for homelessness. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know you touched upon this, but funding for the emergency homeless shelter, transitional housing, and support services are projected to increase by over \$1 million in 2019-2020. What specific shelter activities or resources will these additional funds be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. I can hear somebody's cellphone in the background, if you could please turn off your cellphones. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For operating budgets for the allocation of this year, the \$1.24 million you're referring to is there are the three shelters, Sivummut, Uquutaq, and Umingmak. Wages are \$627,955; operations for all three is \$325,260; and for Umingmak there's administration of \$44,677; totalling \$998,000 just on those three shelters alone. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that one of the department's priorities for 2019-2020 will be to "Explore options and develop mechanisms to strengthen the governance of local non-governmental organizations and community groups." What specific types of challenges are being faced by these non-governmental and community groups? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I didn't get the last part of the question.

Chairman: Thank you. Can you please repeat the last part of your question? Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: What specific types of challenges are being faced by these non-governmental and community groups? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) A lot of the challenge always is the lack of infrastructure or space to try to achieve. Because we're talking about a lot of interest groups, people within the grassroots organizations, a lot of it is about space, having the space to try to create programming. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next is Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question relates to the department's new Child and Family Services Case Management System. Is the system currently up and running in all Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm happy to say that we're on target when it comes to the new system. We go live April 2. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My final question. The *Income Assistance Act* (interpretation) was amended in 2017 following the department's report on the review and

reform of income assistance and economic development. Basic allowance benefits were increased and sundry allowance benefits introduced for clients. In July 2018 basic allowance benefits were increased and this one I don't understand, (interpretation ends) sundries allowance benefit... . There was a sundries allowance benefit introduced for clients who are in a medical or treatment facility. What further program or policy changes are currently being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it for me.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I was going to have my deputy minister respond to the question, but she also doesn't understand her question. I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie, could you please repeat your question?

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): I regret I will have to speak English, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The *Income Assistance Act* was amended in 2017 following the department's report on the review and reform of income assistance and economic development.

In July of 2018 basic allowance benefits were increased, and this one I did not understand, Mr. Chairman, and a sundries allowance benefit introduced for clients who are in a medical or treatment facility. What further program or policy changes are currently being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. I think a similar question was asked earlier, but Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not particularly informed on this. (interpretation ends) That particular question, (interpretation) so if my deputy minister can respond to it, (interpretation ends) through you, *Itsivautaaq*.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand correctly, you're saying that you don't understand the sundries allowance for clients who are on travel. Sundries would mean the clothing allowance that as of July 2018 was rolled up into the general basic benefits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Niego. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister and officials, welcome. For people back home in Baker Lake, it is nice to see one of the official's faces here at the witness table.

My first question will be on your business plan, page 164. Priorities 2018-19, at the very bottom, the last bullet on that page, "Implement the department's Inuit Employment Plan with a focus on recruitment and retention of frontline workers." The status portion, "The department continues to implement initiatives that support the recruitment and retention of Nunavut Inuit, including running hiring competitions restricted to Nunavut Inuit."

My first question is, in Baker Lake a year ago we were in a situation where we were down to possibly one casual social worker and a lot of the other casual social workers were flown in. I've had constituents actually talk to me who had applied for these positions to become social workers. My first question is: how much does it cost for a casual to come to Baker Lake from anywhere outside of Baker Lake to actually work? What costs are we looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Obviously if it's an employee already casual, if they're commuting, it would be the additional costs would be from the community that they're hired to be a worker and then going to, depending if they're going from Iqaluit to Baker Lake, that cost of air travel. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question here is: so in the ballpark of \$5,000 to \$10,000 for one casual to come and work for a week or two? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. As the minister just stated, she's not sure of the actual cost. It would depend if the casual worker is coming from Sanikiluaq or from Pond Inlet. The cost would vary depending on which community they're coming from. Do

you want to ask a different question? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Yes. Okay, I'll rephrase my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at that particular bullet, you've had applicants that could save the department a lot of money by becoming casuals instead of being flown in. Would past applicants be considered? With that status in your business plan now, would they be considered as casuals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: Through the Chair, may I clarify, you're asking if someone applied for a permanent social worker position, if they could be hired as a casual in between staffing. Is that the question? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak, if you could clarify your question, please.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase my question. In Baker Lake with the shortage of social workers, you have flown in casuals, whatever the amount may be, which is not known at the moment, and I have indicated that there have been locals under the particular bullet on 164 you indicate, "...including running hiring competitions restricted to Nunavut Inuit." In Baker Lake there have been people who have applied for those vacant positions. Would those past applicants be considered to start off as a casual before they become an indeterminate or permanent social

worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We understand the question. (interpretation ends) Obviously they would have to have the qualifications and, if they don't, we would certainly look at a stepping stone for a person who has interest, especially if they already have experience as a family resource worker, certainly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Sheutiapik. Just a reminder on the system, when the light in front of you is on, that is the mute button you need to push, not the other ones. It's the one with the light on, okay? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next question would be: what's the difference or the qualification criteria of a flown-in casual as opposed to a local casual? What's the difference in the qualification? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: I see the light. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I had to boost myself up.

I need to clarify that the person who is coming in to relieve is not necessarily always a casual. It could be already an employee within our government who goes to replace. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'll plead my case here. On page 164, the very last bullet, which you can clearly see and I have already stated it, and then if you flip on to your business plan again on page 166, the third bullet also indicates, "Support staff in acquiring the training and education needed to meet professional requirements, including supporting frontline staff in pursuing Social Services Worker Education opportunities." The applicants that did try to work or apply at social services, would they not be considered "pursuing"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. As a department, when there's a vacancy or if a social worker or caseworker is burnt out, if we have in house, we're certainly going to do that before we reach out sometimes because you're actually reacting because it's an emergency situation because these are frontline workers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to ask some very basic questions that are easy to understand.

There are people who have tried to apply

for jobs as social workers, these are Inuit in Baker Lake, and they know that Baker Lake is lacking social workers. They may not be fully qualified, but according to your business plan it states that you are going to support Inuit who want to get a job in Nunavut to be taught as a social worker. That's what is clearly written in the business plan. With respect to those people who have applied for jobs at the Department of Family Services, would you be able to consider them as you are lacking in social workers in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're certainly trying to support it. That's why we created the family social worker program with the college for those that have interest that don't have that background, and then acknowledging that even after their first... They're not fully fledged social workers and we're working on phase 2. We recognize that. We certainly want social workers in each community.

Through you, Chair, if you may, I would like to have my deputy minister expand on that answer. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recognizing that our Baker Lake frontline office has been experiencing capacity issues, we lost a few key staff there. It's taking some time to hire into those positions.

I would like to point out that we have one locally grown social worker there who is experiencing a change. In an effort to retain that individual, we are accommodating a transfer out of the community. We also have an individual originally from the community that is in the social work program at the college here in Iqaluit.

Rather than having untrained staff in these positions, we prefer that a series of trainings occur so that when they experience burnout and capacity issues, they are able to stand through the difficult times. Social work is not an easy job. They're under tremendous pressure from the community, especially when it is their own home community, because you're dealing with families and separating families. We want our social workers well-prepared.

We do encourage every youth across Nunavut to explore entering the social work field. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and the official for the response. You clearly hit the button. To prevent burnout, you actually need to consider more than one employee.

I'm presuming, in Baker Lake, there are people who have tried to apply to the social services vacancies and you guys have reviewed their applications. With that new status on 164, would you guys not consider that and possibly start considering them like an intern to meet the qualifications so that they don't have so many staff burning out at the social

services level? That's just a suggestion.

My other question to that now is, with the current situation in Baker Lake... I do know this for a fact because a year ago I asked about it and to date I have not received a response. I believe there is no operating safe shelter as of yet. With the current situation in Baker Lake, now that we are even an open community with alcohol, it has really changed the dynamics. I am sure that social workers are busy.

When you look at operations and maintenance, without a safe shelter, how are the social workers currently working to ensure that whoever they take in is in a safe place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the question and your statements. It's unfortunate that we have one social worker in each community. It's no wonder there's burnout when you expect 24/7 days a week service with one social worker. We're certainly working on our organizational charts and hopefully one day we will, like officers, have to be more than one in each community.

To answer the question of when there are incidents, social workers are already in place because this is an ongoing issue. They have partners in the community. At the end of the day, if you don't have a shelter, they may have to go to the neighbouring community and flee, unfortunately. When you don't have that shelter right now, that's the process.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. I can only state former applicants have shown an initiative to your department that they're interested in working at Family Services. On that 164 bullet that I was referring to, I urge the department to seriously reconsider that and take a serious look at that for past applicants who have shown their determination to work in your office.

On this particular page, my last question will be on your branch summary. Service contracts from 2018-19 were \$1,815,000, but on your main estimates it is now \$994,000. Is there an explanation to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Could you please tell me what page you're looking at? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. He is looking at page L-4 of the main estimates, down in the bottom where it states that the budget for service contracts has decreased by nearly half. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The increase is because of the OPG, Public

Guardianship office. There is a huge increase to the demand of that service, so that is the increase of that.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. According to the page it says 2018-19 revised estimates of \$1.8 million, but you're budgeting \$994,000, so that's a decrease. If you could explain that, please, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: Okay. It is because of the OPG. They were behind in OPG, the Public Guardianship office. They were behind for many years and they were trying to catch up, so that year there was a huge cost of legal... . The process of the Public Guardianship is very expensive, so they have been trying to catch up and that's why there is a decrease because they're better now than they were last year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. You've got another question, Mr. Mikkungwak? You said it was your last one. Go ahead, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I said my last question, but... .

An Hon. Member: Yeah, you did.

>>Laughter

Mr. Mikkungwak: Will the Department of Family Services take into serious consideration the last two bullets that I have been referencing so that you do not have burnout issues in a forced growth community with industry, open community, shortage of social workers?

Will your department seriously take into consideration the last two bullets that I have been referring to in support of the social workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik* for that final question. I really hear what you're saying and these two staff beside me know every time there is an idea or question, we take that to heart. As I stated earlier, we acknowledge that we need to increase our social workers in each community. That might be the selling point that it be an internship. That might be an idea we will certainly consider. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Before I go to the next name on the list, we will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:43 and resumed at 17:58*

Chairman: Welcome back, members. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I still have four names on my list for questions on Corporate Management and next on my list is Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and staff.

I just have basically two questions and a comment. Somebody ate my eraser.

>>Laughter

The minister talked about that you have to have a strong business case for a safe home. I think that's what I heard her say earlier. My question to that is: how strong a business case are you asking for? You have been to my community, the deputy minister has been to my community, and you have both seen what my community is going through and what we need. You met with the hamlet and we told you what we need. All I'm asking is: how strong of a business case does Gjoa Haven need to get a safe home? That's my first question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When I said "strong case," I meant for the whole territory.

For you specific community, we went to Cambridge Bay and I was really inspired by the community there. I'm sure everybody gets tired of me talking about Cambridge Bay because there is a great example of a community working together: the municipality donating a piece of infrastructure, a building so that they can create a wellness centre, and then the wellness centre working with men in the community and getting a men's homeless shelter.

When we met in your community, I am sorry, but I thought that business was ongoing because there was an agreement. The agreement was that the municipal SAO with his counterpart, who I think was the economic development officer, were supposed to write a proposal to us.

It's kind of hard to create something when we don't... I believe; we believe community knows best what you need. We requested a proposal and we will look at the proposal then. As far as I know, we never received it, and unfortunately only recently did I find out the SAO had left and that's the gap. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been hearing excuses most times and we get tired of it, but as you know, we made a case when you were there. We have no place for people to go, no place for children to go, no place for people in trouble to go. We tried asking to see if we could... Even the RCMP doesn't have a place to put them. All we're hearing are excuses, excuses and stuff like that.

My next question was; you mentioned \$200 a month for a safe home. Is that per person or is that for the month? Another question is: can a private homeowner use his home as a safe home? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry about your community and I sense your frustration, but it's not broken promises. We said "Give us a proposal." We didn't get it. That's not a broken promise. If the community gives us a proposal, we will work with you.

It is \$200 a month per safe home. Any person, like I said, can approach us if they want to be a safe home and we go through the process of a criminal record check to ensure that that home is safe. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: The \$200 a month per safe home for how many people? You have families that are running away from a violent crime or abuse. \$200 for a safe home is what you're saying, but is that for a family, children? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: \$200 a month is per home, but at the end of the day the people with the home would have to let us know how many people they're willing to take in per night during those moments where a person or family requires that safe home. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for the information. I will pass it on to my community.

I said I would have a last comment. My colleague was talking about social service workers, and this is just a comment because we have people pursuing to become social service workers. That's what you mentioned and

that's what my colleague mentioned.

We do need social service workers. They're frontline workers that are very important, but they should also show that they are willing to work for the people that they're supposed to look after; they're not just sitting inside the office and making phone calls. I'm asking if you can look into that to make sure that a social service worker is there for the people, there for the children to look after, not just from inside the person's office. That's just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. We will just leave it as a comment. Moving on, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, a colleague of mine was touching base on social services, and I just want to get a clarification. When it comes to the PYs, are you guys moving them from community to community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At times if our employee chooses to because of the burnout rates, sometimes the change of scenery may assist them. Certainly sometimes we move them from community to community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Minister Sheutiapik. Just to remind the member that when you're referring to the

minister and her staff, don't say "you guys"; try to refer to them in a more professional manner if you could, please. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the warning. Yes, I'll stick to that. Just keep in mind too that I am a very new person.

In your business plan on page 165 the department has a plan with the Inuit Employment Plan. If I heard your deputy minister correctly, she has encouraged the youth to look into the social services field. My question is, if you guys are encouraging the youth in the communities, I am assuming that... It's in your business plan in regard to Inuit employment. Are you guys really saying that with this Inuit Employment Plan, the youth are being part of them? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaernek. You are still referring to the members as "you guys."

>> *Laughter*

I know you're new, but you need to learn a little better. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you will allow, my deputy minister would like to respond to that question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can explain on the youth

aspect. Becoming a social worker is not easy. It's a difficult field. It requires training. It requires annual training. You're dealing with difficult clients. As a part of recruitment, I think it's important to start "planting the seeds" young. As our youth are graduating from high school and post-secondary, that's where we have to start recruiting so that by the time they are ready for that employment, they are fully qualified and able to withstand the pressure. I hope that explains it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer and for that. I would like to see that in the near future that under our Inuit societal values, that would be an encouragement and part of their learning what their new role is as a future social service worker. I would encourage that and make a recommendation that hopefully it will make the youth encouraged to move on with this professional social services field. Just a recommendation that if the department can stick with their business plan, that's just a recommendation, not a comment, just a recommendation. That's final. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We will take that as a comment. That was a comment, right? Okay. Thank you. I didn't hear a question in there. Next, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, everybody.

I guess my first question will be on the damp shelter. It's something that has been a passion of mine and I'm very

happy to see that things have developed this far. I recently took a tour of the Uquutaq Men's Shelter and while I was there, and the Mayor of Iqaluit took me on this tour, she was talking about some of her concerns. I'm sure you have heard of the same concerns, but I just want to get a bit more information.

When we talk about a damp shelter, this kind of shelter requires more attention to detail. For example, how you lay out the furniture, corners that might need to be covered, stove...because if somebody is intoxicated, which is very likely in the damp shelter, then there is more likelihood of that kind of thing happening. I wonder if you can explain to us: how has the department been dealing with this? Who is there overseeing? It does require a little bit different attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm excited about this three-month pilot project. I can say that we've had a staff there every night for a couple of weeks. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking how you pay attention to the shelter. It's different than maybe some other shelters because of people going in would be intoxicated. I was asking: how does the department deal with that different kind of need?

You don't want sharp corners and you don't want stoves that don't turn, or I don't know. There must be special attention that you might need to this kind of shelter because of people being intoxicated. Has the department looked at this and, if so, what are you doing that's different? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. Obviously this being a pilot project, if there are those kinds of concerns, I would imagine there would be notes taken, but I haven't heard of any. Obviously because our staff are used to dealing with shelters, there's a basic kind of safety that they probably, obviously are aware of, but I haven't heard of any concerns raised. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regardless if it has been raised or not, I think it's something that as a department you should take note of because, if you learn from other jurisdictions and how they do it, that's one of the things that they look at. It's a bit different than just having a shelter where people go in because of people being intoxicated.

I did want to ask more questions, but it looks like I have taken up already more time than I wanted to and I do want to ask about other things. In your business

plan of 165, the first bullet, you talk about identifying “inefficiencies and ineffectiveness in supporting the Inuit Employment Plan” and that you’ve done a review. My question is: since you have done the review, what have you done with this information and how have you used it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, the deputy minister is going to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: I’m sorry, Mr. Chairman. I’m just trying to locate the bullet point, if you can repeat which one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, if you could clarify the page number you’re referring to, please. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Page 165, the first bullet on that top, it talks about identifying areas of enhancement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the question then was: out of that, what are we doing with that information? We still have our organizational review finalizing and it will be brought to the attention of the government. There are some key areas

and with the organizational review, we expect to strengthen our three major program streams: child and family services, income assistance, and career development. There are some gradual increases of person years as well. I don’t think I can get into too much detail since it’s not approved at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Well, I’m not going to spend too much time on this either because I don’t know what I’m going to get back, but there’s talk about inefficiencies and ineffectiveness within the department. I just want to get a better idea of what those were and how you...because, “Oh, this is ineffective, so let’s change this to make it better this way.” That’s the kind of thing I was trying to get at, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The deputy minister wants to answer that question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a repeated theme that there is always, partly due to legislation, a bit of an authority issue between regions and headquarters where regional directors have authority in their regions. However, program directors of those three main streams also have some authority according to legislation. There’s a bit of

a clash there which we aim to address through the org review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I was looking for those kinds of examples just to get a better idea of where you're going.

I see from your Inuit Employment Plan that you have 61 percent are Inuit within the department, but out of that 61 percent, can you tell me: what is the percentage of the social services workers that are Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Within the Baffin region for community social service workers, we have seven; Kivalliq, one; and unfortunately right now in the Kitikmeot it shows zero. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Those are very low numbers. What is the department doing to do something about that? If you don't speak the language, then it's very hard to help people who are in distress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Although we have low numbers in social service workers, it's social workers that help with that within the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't understand that comment at all. Can you tell me what the difference is between a social service worker and a social worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I was just reminded that in our offices we have 14 clerk interpreters working with our social workers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, in my own opinion, it would be much better for the social worker to be able to speak Inuktitut and not having to have an interpreter when you're going through that kind of thing. What steps are you guys doing to try to address that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Again, I want to remind members not to say "you." Please refer to them as the department please or by their name, by the minister. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I so too wish all the social workers were Inuit, understanding that there are still so many “unilinguists” in the communities. It’s a tough job, but the department through Arctic College has been working on that social workers program. We are encouraging people to go. We have supported our own staff to take it on in-house for training, but it’s that next step and we’re hoping that we introduce that second phase so that we grow our social workers in the communities.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Thanks for the response. That’s good to hear. I want to go on to poverty reduction. This is the initiative that has been ongoing for several years now, even before I was an MLA, I think. I’m wondering if the department can tell us what achievements have been recognized in this area to date. There has been a lot of money spent in this area, yet we still have very high poverty rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thanks to the member for that question. I have that same question myself. I certainly had extra briefing time with the division to get a better understanding. I assumed because you hear poverty reduction that they’re going to go out and decrease the

cost of... .

A big part of poverty reduction is community engagement, and I think that’s why that roundtable happens. They coordinate information out of that. They do advocacy work. Certainly through that poverty reduction, we’re vocal on the food mail program. Research and program reform is a big one under the Poverty Reduction. There have been action plans and reports.

Current priorities in the area of work for this Poverty Reduction is a) food security; parenting; not-for-profit capacity building; and homelessness are areas of work. A lot of it is research. Unfortunately I think that that research there are some reports pending that I’m waiting to be able to table in the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that’s important work, but it does make me wonder at the end of the day, if I were hungry and I couldn’t afford to buy what I needed, how would those kinds of things help me? We do say it is poverty reduction, so I guess we are looking for stats to say, “What are we doing to help people who are in that situation?”

When it comes to the programs that are being delivered under Poverty Reduction, it says in your business plan under the Objectives on page 167 that you’re working with Inuit organizations and so on, on initiatives that are aimed at reducing poverty. How are you evaluating the mandate of this program

or the objectives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Our division is mandated really to facilitate coordination and collaboration across our governments, our NGOs to reduce it. Through that the other avenue that we use is we have community-based poverty reduction initiatives. This year, 2018-19, \$300,966 was distributed across Nunavut. It's a proposal-based program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister referring to the nine community-based food security projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Actually the list I have is more. If, for the pleasure of the members quickly: Hamlet of Baker Lake received \$26,500 for the Niriqatigiit Baker Lake Food Security Education Project; IDEA Inuksuk High School (Iqaluit) for the school ground lunches program, \$40,000; Eat Fit (Cape Dorset), the Eat Fit Project - Nutrition and Skills Development received \$31,640; IDEA Joamie School (Iqaluit) Life Skills Breakfast, Snack, Lunch program,

\$25,000; Municipality of Kimmirut for Kimmirut Make and Take, \$16,626; Qajuqturvik Food Centre for Mentorship Program, \$40,000; Skills Canada Nunavut and this one was for varying communities for cooking and baking clubs of \$15,000; IDEA Nakashuk School Life Skills for Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks program, \$30,000; the Apex school received \$12,000; Hamlet of Coral Harbour did a young men's cooking class which received \$14,850; and Nunavut Arctic College, 22 communities received the breakfast program for \$49,359. That totalled [\$300,966] for this year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's great to see such initiatives that are supported.

I would like to ask about homelessness and absolute homelessness. A few years ago the department went door to door to try to get the proper numbers. I'm wondering if the minister can share with us: what are those numbers as of today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There were two surveys: the hidden homeless research and point-in-time counts. They're still compiling it. I'm expecting that report to be available to me in April. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be nice to see that report tabled. It has been a while, so it's taken them a while to get to this point.

I would like to also just go into a little about safe homes that my colleague was talking about, the \$200. I just want to know if the minister can tell us a bit more about the criteria and limitations to operate a safe home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As stated earlier, an individual, a family who wants to be considered a safe home will approach the department and then they have to do a criminal record check because if this is a safe home, then you want them to be safe. Of course the department, through probably a social worker, kind of know community members. That too plays a role, but a criminal record check is a must for a safe home. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I guess I'm getting more at like the number of bedrooms. How many people per night can I bring? If I was a safe home, can I just, okay, anybody who wants a safe home, can I bring them in? What if I don't have any food in my fridge? Does that count? Are

these kinds of things looked at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would imagine so because these people are coming because they're saying that they have the space available, and obviously they would have food because they're being paid that \$200 a month. You have to remember these safe homes are not going to be there all the time. It might be one or two days until they're something; it's an emergency situation. You're not going to be living there every day of each month. It's temporary. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I guess that's what I'm getting at. Can somebody stay there for 30 days because they have absolutely nowhere to go? Maybe there's violence in the family. That's what I'm getting at. What are your criteria if you are a safe home? Are there criteria? Maybe there are not and maybe the minister can then tell us that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I stated, it depends on each home and what they're willing to give because they're the ones opening their door.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I have 36 seconds left. I'm not getting the answer I'm asking for. I think you need to look at what rules do you have. You can't just be all open. There have got to be some rules. That's kind of like what I was getting at.

I do want to point out that I don't think the \$200 a month is anything at all. It's very expensive to live in the communities or everywhere. I think you...not you. I think the department should look at this again and do a review on the amounts paid. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Safe homes receive a retainer. It's actually a retainer of \$200 a month. If the home is utilized, they will receive a per diem. The \$200 we talk about is just a retainer and then it is \$50 a day for each adult, \$45 per day for each child, and if for some reason they do stay on an extra day or two, then there's an additional \$75 per day for additional expenses during their stay. The \$200 we talk about is just strictly for being a safe home.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik, for that clarification. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions in regard to the opening comments that the minister had stated. Last year three foster care coordinators were approved and I'm wondering where those three positions are, where they are planning to base them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know one has been hired in Iqaluit, and right now there's recruiting for Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What will their duties be? Thank you. Actually wait. What will be the role of the foster care coordinators? How will they provide assistance in the communities through the (interpretation ends) regional centres? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) They're doing multiple things, I can tell you right now having been briefed from our existing coordinator. They help the potential foster parents ensure that the documentations that are required; they assist them in filling them out. They also

do the annual visits. It's about placements. It's about training. We're hoping to have more training with foster parents to ensure that one, for example, FASD training; even discussion about the legalization. They've gotten training safe sleep. We're hoping that foster parents receive CPR and first aid. Those are the kinds of things that the foster parent coordinator will be doing in the three regions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the clarification. For my next question, (interpretation ends) I know that a few years ago there were approved PYs for new positions, family resource workers. I'm just wondering how many communities have family resource workers now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently we have nine funded, but four are filled right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Did you say that there are nine, (interpretation ends) and where are those based right now? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: Filled (interpretation) at the moment are in Iqaluit, (interpretation ends) Arctic Bay, Whale Cove, (interpretation) and Taloyoak. (interpretation ends) Those are the four that are filled right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification. (interpretation ends) I guess there are four communities that do have it now. Three? I know when those positions came out, (interpretation) they were going to assist the social workers and they were going to run programs in the communities. That's what they were going to do. (interpretation ends) That's why I was asking. (interpretation) They were supposed to go to the communities. That's why I wanted to ask this.

Also, (interpretation ends) the last time I had asked in regard to the senior fuel subsidy, the department stated that \$475,000 is the annual budget for that program. I think about \$175,000 is usually a surplus. What is the department doing to utilize that budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Sixty individuals so far have received the

funding. Yes, it fluctuates each year, but it's also potentially because there was a review of it and it was changed and there is now an eligible listing for income. Hopefully it will assist. They have been increased. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You stated that the elders' pay is set for the whole year and if they make too much money, then the assistance they receive is less. You stated that this has been reviewed. What has been changed, if I understand correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It was reviewed and those changes of the scheduling, the influx of the incomes was changes because of the review. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk: Can you say that again, please? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik, if you could please repeat your answer.

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

review was done to the senior fuel subsidy. Out of the review, the eligibility criteria categories were changed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. They were changed, but what was changed with them? I think that was part of her question. What part of the criteria were changed? Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If your net annual income is from zero to \$75,000, you're eligibility for subsidy is 100 percent of 3,500 litres; if your income is over \$75,000 to \$100,000, you're eligible for 50 percent at 1,750 litres; and if your income is over \$1,000, you're not eligible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. You said over \$1,000, but I think you mean \$100,000, just for the record. Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk, do you have another question? Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk: Yes, I understand, I think. The eligibility criteria that you stated, I know those are very similar to how it was done. I am curious what you're planning to do to utilize the full budget. It's stated \$175,000 is not used by the whole year. (interpretation) What are your plans for that surplus or is it just going to be like this where they always have money left over and some people are not eligible while other people are eligible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm anticipating that this funding will be used more as our population is aging. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. We are on Family Services. Corporate Management. Page L-4. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$12,721,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Moving on to page L-5. Children and Family Services. Wow!

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to refer to page 170 on the business plan, mainly focused on "Adult Support Services provides a range of support services to eligible adults with disabilities." I am presuming that refers to individual who are placed in southern facilities. Is that correct, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): My apologies, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm just trying to find the page. 165?

Chairman: Thank you. I'm sorry. Were you... ?

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: I was

asking... .

Chairman: Wait. Okay, hold on. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm referring to page 170 on your business plan. The budget line item I'm referring to is Adult Support Services, \$744,000, and then from 2019-2020 it goes up to \$786,000. My first question here is, on this particular budget line item it says "...support services to eligible adults with disabilities." Is that in reference to individuals who are currently placed in southern facilities, my first question, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. (interpretation ends) We're realizing that our page numbers and the page numbers you're referring to are different. That's why there's confusion.

"Adult Support Services provides a range of support services to eligible adults and with disabilities."
(interpretation) I apologize.
(interpretation ends) Now that I have found the page, through the Chairperson, what was your question?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, please repeat your question again.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this particular line here, these are individuals that have been placed in southern facilities from

Nunavut that were teenagers and are becoming adults. Is that what this line item is referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It could be either. Our own children in Nunavut that are going into adulthood. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The reason I'm asking this question is because I got a phone call from a constituent of mine that their child is now living in the south in a group home, but the child has mental and physical disabilities and that's why the child has to be sent down there. The child is now 19 years old and the parent can only go see that child once a year because the child is now an adult. Before the child reached 19 years of age, the parent could visit twice a year.

However, the health professionals have diagnosed this person as five years behind in development. Does your department consider things like that? That person has been diagnosed by a physician. Is the number of visits considered by the department or do you only follow the criteria for specific ages? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are different criteria for different age groups. The deputy minister wants to clarify that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some adult case management scenarios, there could be a transfer between being a family services client and being a health client. Both departments have a client travel policy. Perhaps that is one case. If the department received the details on it, that could be a case where it could transfer over to Health, subject to the Health's requirements, but without details, it's difficult to determine where this client would fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I'm asking this question to the Department of Family Services is due to the fact that the individual is still being monitored by the Department of Family Services, in the care of Family Services, yet the individual just turned age of 19 but medically diagnosed by a doctor that mentally they're five years behind.

With that diagnosis, physically they're 19 years of age but mentally challenged or with a disability, they're 14 years old. With family visits, do you take that into consideration to maintain the two visits per year still or do you just go with the recognition of their birthdate of 19 years

of age and limit it down to one visit per year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) A travel pile exists for these services that we provide, and that's what we follow. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that made known to the entire family even though they have that disability, "I'm sorry but this is the policy and it's now going to be trimmed down to one visit per year"? Is that what I'm hearing from the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, the deputy minister would like to answer that question.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego, please go ahead.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our travel policy is quite clear on the age, so we would have to abide by that policy. However, if we have the details of that and the fact that there's a health professional involved diagnosing the individual, perhaps that client should transfer to Health and become a health

client instead of a family services client. There's another chance that the Office of the Public Guardian is involved, so that would require again assistance from that office. Without the details, it's difficult to provide proper direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. On that, it sounds like a special case that maybe you should deal with the minister in her office and work with them directly on your particular issue. Mr. Mikkungwak, do you have another question? Please go ahead.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that's the situation and it's a unique case, do they move from that one facility that the Department of Family Services has an agreement with? Do they move to a different facility that is signed off by the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's really hard to answer your questions because it varies depending on what kind of contract exists for services we provide, what kind of contracts might be if they're under Health and might need to go to Family Services or vice versa. If there is a specific case, it would be easier to answer those questions appropriately in a more private setting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions. What specific department initiatives are underway to address family violence in Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) A big part of what we do under Family Services for violence prevention is community based. We actually provide funding so that community members and organizations could actually submit a proposal for violence prevention. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Funding for shelter programs is provided through contributions from your department's Child and Family Services Division and is projected to increase somewhat in 2019-2020. Will any additional shelters be opened with this additional funding support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: *Itsivautaaq*, unfortunately not. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's too bad.

One of the priorities listed in the draft business plan for 2019-2020 indicates that the department will work with other entities to identify elders within the communities to work in collaboration with community social workers and family resource workers to support families. What kinds of cases will these elders be involved in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, the deputy minister wants to answer that question.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might have missed part of the question, but I think it was to do with elders working within our Family Services offices and how they would be working. This would be a new entity in our frontline offices. I think we would have to explore and discover what role by the individual elder themselves, what they can accomplish, as well as what our staff feel that the elder could assist with. Much of it could be simple positive messaging. It could be elder counselling. I don't think we have the role completely determined at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and her officials.

I just want to ask some questions for

clarification. (interpretation ends)
 Funding for the Social Advocacy
 Division of the department's Children
 and Family Services Branch is projected
 to increase in 2019-2020, with the
 annual contribution to the Qullit Status
 of Women Council being increased for
 the first time in over a decade. What
 accounts for this increase in funding?
 (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
 Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq.
 Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
 (interpretation): Thank you, Mr.
 Chairman. (interpretation ends) The
 increase to the Qullit Status of Women
 is for one PY. (interpretation) Thank
 you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister
 Sheutiapik. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank
 you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)
 One of the department's priorities for
 2019-2020 will be to "Begin the process
 to revise the *Adoption Act* and the
Aboriginal Custom Adoption
Recognition Act..." What are some of
 the main challenges in administering
 these two pieces of legislation and what
 kinds of changes to policies and
 procedures are being considered?
 (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
 Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq.
 Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
 (interpretation): Thank you, Mr.
 Chairman. Thank you for that question. I
 had that question asked previously, but

we will move forward by meeting with
 NTI to discuss custom adoption. It will
 impact Inuit particularly, what the
 federal government drafted and its
 impacts on Inuit. Obviously we are
 trying to deal with this issue here in
 Nunavut using our own legislation and
 policies, but that legislation will impact
 us, so we will have to seriously
 contemplate our options on this issue.

I also want to state that ITK has made
 their position known and (interpretation
 ends) have said they will never do
 service delivery because we are service
 providers for the children of our
 territory. That being said, they're the
 ones that are working with the federal
 government on this legislation. I'm
 certainly reaching out to try to start the
 dialogue with this. (interpretation)
 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister
 Sheutiapik. Minister...Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank
 you, Mr. Chairman. It would have been
 fun to get a promotion.

(interpretation ends) Under Child
 Protection Services, (interpretation) I
 want to ask a question. As the minister
 mentioned earlier regarding custom
 adoption and the impacts on adoptions,
 and since I heard of possible impacts and
 if I heard correctly, I want to understand
 about foster parents as they are paid \$50
 for fostering a child daily and the
 expense is around \$45 per child. There is
 also another amount of \$75 for
 additional fostering.

Now, in one of my constituency
 communities, there are several families
 that in English serve as (interpretation

ends) foster parents. (interpretation) There are at least two of them and they are provided this funding via the Department of Family Services. There is also another \$250 paid for nutritious foods for the child. However, if the foster parent is unemployed, they will face financial hardship.

I wonder if the minister has developed any plans for increasing future payments for foster parents so that they can survive and properly care for their foster child as they are supporting fellow Inuit. Hopefully I was clear enough to be understood, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very grateful to foster parents as they remain open to providing assistance to their fellow residents undergoing hard times. I was asked questions earlier about this matter, as that fund hasn't been increased for several years, and we know we have also increased the salaries for social workers. I am currently in discussions with the (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance (interpretation) as to how we could increase the amount paid to foster parents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that good news. I will pass this information on to my constituents.

My last question will be (interpretation ends) under your department's grants and contributions funding for the Child

and Family Services Division, \$50,000 will provided for women's initiative grants. Can you describe what types of initiatives this funding will be spent on? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Qirngnuq. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): We're looking for it, sorry.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The following applications have been approved for this funding: (interpretation ends) Hamlet of Arctic Bay and Tuniit Justice Committee, (interpretation) sealskin snow pants, \$10,000, and (interpretation ends) Kugluktuk Women's Empowerment Initiatives, Women Wellness, \$12,000. (interpretation) There are different applications that are received every year.

(interpretation ends) The purpose of the women's empowerment initiative is to help women and girls develop skills in the following areas: leadership skills, empowerment, economic self-resilience, and traditional knowledge. Projects vary from year to year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. Regarding custom adoptions for aboriginal peoples, I just wanted to state that they should require criminal record checks as there are some foster parents who are abusive. I am deeply concerned about this matter, especially when

looking at the 2019 fiscal year where it will be renewed.

My question is, (interpretation ends) the Department of Family Services provided funding for three communities, Arviat, Hall Beach, Kugluktuk, and Pangnirtung, for men's and boy's initiatives. Have any communities submitted proposals for programs or initiatives in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, the deputy minister would like to respond to that question.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego, please go ahead.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For applications, they were almost double the amount of proposals from the previous year. This year we received 34. The successful community projects are in four communities, mirroring the women's initiatives. They are, for the men's: Pond Inlet Danny Maktar Men's Group, Sanikiluaq Traditional Tool Making, Kugluktuk Men's Wellness Program, and Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization Learn to Hunt Club. All the four projects range from \$10,000 to \$14,000 each. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: My final question, Mr. Chairman. On page 171 on the fourth

bullet, "The department anticipates that the Coordinator for Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth will be filled by April 2019." Earlier in the discussions, the minister stated that social service workers have interpreter/translators working in their department.

My question is, if the coordinator will be playing a large role engaging with community partners who deliver programs to address sexual abuse, we the Inuit have experienced sexual abuse; our children have. I'm questioning whether that coordinator, instead of looking at the educational qualifications, if the minister has thought of looking at the experience and educational qualifications in order to fill this role. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) During this session there has been a lot of talk of the Umingmak Centre. Obviously and unfortunately because it's a need, our caseworkers sometimes unfortunately do come across it, but to best represent and service the children that had experienced this, the Umingmak Centre will be open and maybe through that process, I would imagine they will have elders involved, but there are certainly different departments, Health, Family Services, Justice, different stakeholders are involved. I'm really excited about the Umingmak Centre because we need to ensure that they get the best support possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier it was mentioned the difficult field of social work or how difficult the field is, and last year we briefly touched upon the topic and the high rates of turnover that these social workers face. I was wondering what strategy the minister has to try to address the high rates of turnover in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I very much question the staff on this. They themselves were having the burnouts would have ideas of how to best accommodate them. We had a mini-retreat and through that, that was one of the discussions that they're going back to their community and really think about what would assist them to prevent. We shouldn't wait until they're burning out to assist them. Those discussions have been happening. We're not producing a strategy *per se* yet, but we're certainly having those discussions in hopes that that will assist us in strategizing to prevent burnout with our workers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that burnout may lead to high rates of turnover, but I was wondering if the department is considering any type of strategy to

reduce the turnover rates. Adjusting the compensating, providing recruitment and retention bonuses, I'm sort of looking for stuff like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Other than the very important "proactiveness" to prevent burnout, we do have a number of initiatives, one being creating an open job advertisement for social workers, which will allow the department to continually accept screened candidates for employment. It is another plan that I think will be very helpful.

Obviously we're also updating the job advertisement to make sure it's more appealing for potential candidates. As stated, it's not an easy job. We're also working with the human resource... I've got acronyms here that I know I'm not supposed to use, so bear with me. [Qaujigiartiit] Health Research to develop an app for new frontline workers that will prepare them for their arrival to Nunavut, including an overview of the department information regarding Nunavut, its communities and ways to work effectively with Inuit people; even amongst Inuit, they might be from one region to another, moving communities, working to support Nunavut Arctic College Social Service Workers Program and recruit more graduates from that program to work as frontline staff with the department.

The other thing, honestly, that has a huge impact I never thought of is office space. That sometimes becomes a

deterrent because we're lacking secure office space for staff who are dealing with very confidential information and in some communities the overgrowing. We've had shared spaces with Health before who need that space and I know we've had to re-advertise in some communities trying to find office space. That sometimes becomes a challenge when we're recruiting.

We're trying to do better in succession planning and beginning to be aware of who might be retiring in the near future, and also implementing the new client information system, which is expected to reduce workload on frontline staff and provide for more monitoring mechanism of caseloads that hopefully will also prevent burnouts. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like what the department is doing there with posting "Open until filled" and trying to gather the pool. I'm looking at the job ad now and it is very descriptive of Nunavut's majestic natural landscapes and rich Inuit arts, and I hope it is attracting many applicants. I just want to ask: when did this open advertisement begin, and have you seen an increase in applicants? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We started in December and since then we have received a hundred applications.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's really great news. Congratulations on that.

I hope, when these applicants do eventually start working here, that we will be able to retain them. In the meantime, with the social workers that we have now, do you feel that the current salary pay grade classification is sufficient or has any role in determining or retaining employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Some of them are very detailed questions. Yvonne wants to answer that. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given the work that social workers deal with, obviously I would have to agree that increases to salary would be a good move. However, we're subject to an evaluation process which is quite thorough, from I understand, so we're restricted to sticking within certain pay grades. One thing that we were exploring was bonuses, which may be a factor for retaining year over year, increasing a bonus. We're still in the exploration stage, though. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I appreciate your efforts in filling these hard-to-fill social worker positions and I really hope that you guys will make some progress in that area.

I'll move on to my next line of questioning and it's about foster care. It's quite common to see a callout to fill the department's need for more foster parents. I was wondering: what's the current situation? How many foster parents do we have and how many do we need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have these numbers because I have been trying to number crunch, wanting to increase the basket. Right now we have 150 approved foster homes in Nunavut. I do have a breakdown by region if he wanted, but we do have 150 approved foster parents in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I'm curious if that number fluctuates much. I seem to recall last year that there was a much higher number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone.

Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As employees, do foster parents also retire? They move from territory to territory to province, so obviously if it's temporary parenting in Nunavut, then they're leaving; they're not taking the children. The numbers do decrease from time to time because of relocation and retirements. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that as social work can be difficult, so can foster parenting. The children that these parents take in have faced some really serious issues. I was wondering what kind of training is provided to foster parents and if there is any trauma-informed type of training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That is the plan. I listed off earlier a bunch of training that we would like to do with foster parents. Because of the situation, obviously there are issues in the home, that's why these children are taken away. If needed, there's counselling at Grinnell where Children and Family Services... . They certainly receive it if required. Each family is usually made aware of potentially why the child is put in foster care so they can be aware of

what to look out for with each person put in place. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Nakashuk. Sorry, I thought you had your hand up earlier. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I'm just trying to find my papers that I put away very nicely.

I would like to... . Mr. Chairman, can you go to the next person until I'm ready. You caught me when I'm not ready. I'll go after the next person.

Chairman: Thank you. We will see if we can get back to you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I second what my colleague mentioned earlier about adoptions and the issue of monitoring sexual offences. It's obvious that that is needed.

You will start working on adoption. (interpretation ends) On page 173 it says, "Begin the process to revise the *Adoption Act*..." and in the next year, 2020-21, "Continue the implementation of revisions to..." (interpretation) If I understood correctly, in 2020 or 2021 the amendments will be implemented regarding adoption legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I'm not sure if they got that, but there was a little trouble with the translation. She's nodding she didn't, so if you could please repeat your question. Mr. Main, please.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just make it shorter. This work around the *Adoption Act* and the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act* and reviewing your policies and procedures, when is the plan to put those changes in force? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I stated earlier that I have asked staff to reach out to NTI for the custom adoption and for us to start. To shorten the answer, as I normally try to do, we're hoping to introduce the changes for the end of this government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would encourage the minister to look at any short-term measures that may be possible in terms of, without comprising anybody's rights and without inconveniencing parents who want to adopt too much, any short-term measures that you may be able to put in place to protect children. Okay? Thank you for nodding.

(interpretation) It also states in here... . (interpretation ends) I guess I'll continue on that topic with the child abuse. It mentions here on the top of page 172, it talks about the link between child sexual abuse and suicide. It mentions "...child sexual abuse prevention initiatives, such

as training its frontline staff in effectively responding to child sexual abuse..." and funding through *Inunnguiniq* initiatives.

I don't really understand. Responding to child sexual abuse means abuse has already happened and *Inunnguiniq* is parenting. On the side of child sexual abuse prevention, what are the initiatives within the department? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It touches every department, not just Family Services. As a parent, it's also our responsibility. Sometimes unfortunately in communities there is overcrowding which I feel has more room for potential. It is us as parents to also to educate.

Far too often, it's a touchy subject and we never want to talk about it, and I'm so glad that this government is having those discussions because the more you talk about it, hopefully the more parents will talk about it and to me that helps prevention. Education does some work, but it takes all of us as people. That's a big prevention. I think it's a big start that we're talking about it.

I may not have all the answers in one department, but it's every one of our responsibility to educate children. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I agree that it's important to talk about it. In terms of a communications initiative, which seems to be raising awareness, who is the lead? She mentioned Education. I know Justice is also involved. Who is the lead? I don't see anything specific in here on your priorities regarding sex abuse and prevention. Is there anything like that in the works and, if so, who is leading it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's all new and part of the strategy is: what can we do?

Last year I provided flip information on a ring on career development. I have talked about that in a social in our office while they're waiting for counselling, income support, or whatever it may be; to even have that available of what's out there. Education has a toolkit on "Don't Touch, Right Touch," or it's just reminding people it's not acceptable. Just to even have that basic information as communication; it should not just be news releases is what I'm trying to get at. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. Is there any plan for a communications initiative on this

subject? I'm thinking along the lines of what the Department of Finance is doing with the Responsible Drinking campaign; posters and ads and stuff like that. Is there anything being planned or discussed on this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am sure that once Umingmak is operational and those wonderful people who are going to support those children will come up with some sort of collaborative approach on how to communicate to prevent children from over-utilizing that service. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can the minister commit to setting up some sort of communications initiative on this? It sounds to me like there isn't anything in the works currently. I realize it's not in the business plan, but going forward, can she commit to leading a communications initiative on child sexual abuse? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think I

already said I'm committed because I said once that Umingmak is open and all those brains... . Because there is still a working group and I certainly, through my staff, will ask what other... . We have our ideas, but what other ideas are there? I am certainly committed to help with that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll move on to another topic. Looking at the letter that was provided to the standing committee and the list of the different facilities, the supported living home that's currently in Rankin Inlet, this is the one that's just called the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Supported Living, and there's a real bad need for this type of facility in Arviat right now. We don't have any type of group home facility or shelter or anything. Right now we have people who, I believe, should be in a supported living facility and they're living on their own in public housing. On the one hand, at least they're not homeless, but really, with the type of issues they're dealing with, they should have some sort of support.

Later in the letter it mentions how to set up a shelter within a community and that communities have to self-identify, but it mentions shelters specifically. Is the process for setting up a supported living home in a community the same as the one as setting up for a shelter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for that. I'll get to work and see if the hamlet would support that because I think it's badly needed.

My last question here is on page 172. It may not be my last question depending on the response, but the first priority mentions your case management and your audit procedures. It says, "...to ensure compliance with standards..." That tells me that there have been issues with not complying with standards. Specifically what standards are not currently being met? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There was a cross-section of all file types across Nunavut, including adults and children, identified for auditing. Site visits are conducted now across the territory to facilitate the audit and staff must address any issues identified if there was an audit and within 60 days. The audit ensures services are meeting standards and that clients are receiving adequate and appropriate care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll leave that alone.

On page 173 another one of your priorities, about middle of the page, it says, "Initiate incorporating structured decision-making into child protection investigations..." That tells me that right now there is no structured decision-making in your child protection investigations. What type of decision-making process is used right now if it's not a structure one? What type of decision-making process is currently used? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The deputy minister would like to answer that question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although our structured decision-making isn't defined as of yet, how our social workers make decisions is very much dependent on their level of training. Therefore the same scenario could be decided on differently in two different communities, which is why we have the need to build in structured decision-making into our CIS, or our Child Information System, the new database. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Thank you for your patience. I found my questions I had written that I would like to ask. I'm going to base my questions on the report that I read, a report by the director of child and family services. I note that some things are quite interesting to read. For example, in the department's annual report it speaks of care agreements. At the time of this report, which was 2017-18, it had 138 such agreements in place. I think, if I am correct, I understand that these are agreements between the family and the department. Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we have agreements that we sign, not just foster parents but family agreements as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are agreements that are signed by the family and the department. I further understand that these agreements exist as an alternative to court, if the minister can confirm that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

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

Chairman. (interpretation ends) That is correct.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how many such agreements had unfortunately progressed towards a court order? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately I don't see that detailed information with the information we do have, but I would be more than happy to provide it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get a bit of a better understanding on what a support service agreement would look like. What is that? Just the basics. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Out of the three different types of service agreements, the support services agreement is an agreement with youth between the ages of 16 and 19 who cannot remain safely in their parent's home and are making efforts to care for themselves and live independently. That

is a support service agreement.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. When I talk about the family
care agreements, you had 138 at the time
of this report, and at the time of this
report you had 25 such support services
agreements. You just mentioned what
they were. Is that number growing?
There were 25 in 2017-18. Is the need to
have that type of agreement increasing?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.
Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. (interpretation ends)
Unfortunately we don't have any
numbers when it comes to the different
agreements. We have numbers for what
kind of services there are, but we
actually don't have the numbers for the
different kind of agreements. We will
have to get back to you on that one as
well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms.
Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. Just quickly too, permanent
custody care, so when somebody is in
permanent custody care, are these
children deemed to never going back to
their parents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.
Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. (interpretation ends) A
permanent custody order is a court order
that places a child in the permanent
custody of the director to age 16,
extendable to 19, if the youth consents
and is ordered by the court.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms.
Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I was going to ask where
these children were located, but you
probably don't have that information.
It's probably a bit too detailed. As of the
time of this report, in Nunavut 104
children were placed under permanent
custody. These are big numbers.

I do want to talk a little bit about foster
care in Nunavut. I know that there have
been several calls out for more foster
parents to come forward. I'm wondering
if there is any concern or what I would
call red flags when a person or a
household has more than, let's say, three
foster children in their home. Does
anybody raise any eyebrows about that?
Where is the limit? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak.
Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm not
aware of any limit because as parents,
sometimes we choose to have six
children and you have six children. If a
home is able to accommodate five in
their home comfortably, but because

there is a home study that is done before it's approved. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have heard that sometimes because there is a lack of enough foster homes, children start getting piled into one home and it makes me question what kind of quality care they're receiving if a family already has three or four children of their own, and then you start putting three or four other additional kids because they don't have any other place to go. Has the department discussed this? Is this something that's raised as a concern at any time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have not heard of that concern through my briefings. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Can the minister confirm...? You don't have really any limits on how many kids can go in. You're looking, perhaps, at the number of beds available, but I think sometimes you've got to also look at what kind of quality of care the foster parents are able to give the children when there are a lot of kids there.

I have also heard of an actual situation

where a foster parent was sending the kids to the soup kitchen at lunchtime and I don't think that is right, and I'm wondering if the department... How do you provide oversight over things like this happening? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're not aware of that, but obviously if we know the actual foster parents, we would certainly be making a visit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. We could have that discussion.

I have also been told by a foster care mother that her home inspections are really only done at the beginning, for her anyhow, and she had foster care for years. What is the department policy on this? If there is a suspicion that a particular child may be abused, what is the protocol of the department and how are the whistleblowers being protected? There are three questions there. What's the department policy on home inspections, and how do you deal with a suspicion that a child may be abused? What's the protocol of the department when it comes to whistleblowers? How do you protect them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I mentioned earlier that we have a foster parent coordinator that had started in the last few months. It's going to be mandatory that there are annual visits. It's because of shortage of staff that it did not happen all the time but will certainly be happening with our foster parent coordinators. Even if they're not in the community, they will certainly be coordinating with other employees. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I also asked two other questions. One was: how do you deal with it if there's somebody who has a suspicion that particular child may be being abused, and what is the protocol of the department in how you protect the whistleblower? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. It might be better if you ask one question at a time to get your answers properly. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If it's a legitimate complaint, we're going to take that seriously because this child is in place for protection for obvious reasons. If they're not having the proper care in that foster home, we would certainly take that child away. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister

Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my clock is ticking down and I still don't feel I got the answer I'm looking for.

It actually happened where a couple of foster parents came forward and they identified a child that might be abused. The way that the department handled the information wasn't quite right. The one that they accused found out through information that was provided by the department to the RCMP, and he turned around and started threatening the two that had come forward. At the end of the day the man was charged.

What I'm trying to get at is: when you want to come forward, how do you protect people like that? Has the department learned from maybe that experience? If I were somebody and I suspected that somebody's maybe not treating a child right, maybe physically, but I don't want them to know that I have complained, how do you go about protecting people like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would hope, my goodness, that there's confidentiality. As an MLA, if you bring a complaint, a person even has to ensure that I can talk to you about confidential information. Maybe there was a slip there. I don't know of the situation because obviously since I have been minister, I have not heard of any of these allegations. (interpretation) Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go on to something else while I have some time. I would like to know what the position of the department is on foster care group homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's an interesting question and honestly we have not had that discussion. I know we used to have one in Apex. Food for thought, though, because we are looking at how do we maximize, improve, or looking at an org chart and such, but anything I hear I certainly take back and always mention, "What about this?" Thank you for that idea. I take that.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this report it also states that the department was increasing its capacity to provide culturally appropriate services. I'm wondering: how is the department dealing with the culture and language needs of the out-of-territory children placed in non-indigenous homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know in a place like Ottawa the foster parents that have out-of-territory because of medical reasons potentially utilize the Ontario Inuit daycares and the services in Ottawa, as an example.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it the department that looks after that to make sure that these children are taken there or do you rely on the parents, the foster parents or residential parents? Where does the responsibility lie? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We remember we recently hired the client liaison officer in Ottawa who would be coordinating those. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I've just got one second. 519 women and children sought safety in the family violence shelters according to your annual report. What kind of support and services are you offering these families going through this on an ongoing...? We all know that family violence doesn't stop right away, right? Often families go through a long process of this kind of

trauma that's going on; the spouse, violence, abuse against the children.

If somebody, for example, flees and your department flies them here to Iqaluit because sometimes that happens because we don't have any real transitional housing for women fleeing from a violent situation, but I'm wondering afterwards. I find that sometimes cases can be forgotten if everything seems to be okay. Things seem to simmer down a bit, but underneath there is still stuff going on. I'm just wondering how you deal with that.

How do you keep an eye on families you've dealt with? Maybe things have kind of calmed down, but then it comes back again because we have seen this repeated many a time. I'm just wondering if you can give us an idea on what kinds of strategies you might have to ensure that you keep an eye on things that it just doesn't stop. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's that continued dialogue and relationship with the shelters because it is the shelters that provides that programming and that relationship, that daily conversation that sometimes happens with the Qimaavik shelter and our staff and what's appropriate. Sometimes it's even long term when they're nearing their term that transitional housing would be great because that's the next step moving out of the Qimaavik shelter, but it's that continued relationship between us and the shelters to ensure that if they need

counselling, it continues.

If they're fleeing as a parent, do they have support for their children? Is there a safety plan if it happens again? There are provisions of emotional and mental supports for children who witness the abuse. Then of course we're forever trying to do traditional healing programs. I know that at the shelter sometimes they do sewing programs.

Those are things that our department meets regularly with the shelters so that when we better understand that if their needs grow, you don't want to be talking to them only when their contribution expires. There's an ongoing, regular meeting, not just with the executive director; they meet with the board as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. We are on Children and Family Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$64,940,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to L-6. Income Assistance. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I could have asked more on the other thing, but I will go on to ask for Income Assistance.

The department most recently revised the income assistance benefits in July of 2018. The business plan notes that the department has taken steps to link income assistance to changes in living costs. How will living cost measures be taken into account to revise and increase income assistance benefits? How would

you do the linking? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The great thing about this reform was that the food basket was created, so that's a tool we use. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister maybe elaborate a bit about what the food basket is and what does it consist and how is it used to determine costs in every community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are four zones under the food mail basket. (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) I'm just trying to find it so that I can give you what the zones are.

(interpretation) I'm sorry.

(interpretation ends) The actual food... . (interpretation) I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is a spreadsheet, but the deputy minister would like to answer that question.

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak)

(interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that at standing committee I may have given a bit of an explanation from MLA Akoak's question. It was quite similar.

There was a very complicated calculation in how the new rates for income assistance were calculated. There's the nutritional value of items taken into account. There were the Nunavut Food Basket calculations, but then there's an issue of if those nutritional foods are available in the community, so oftentimes the items didn't apply for Nunavut. There was a very complex calculation, and then we took the communities with the cost of living based on those baskets, and then tried to simplify the calculations for the purposes of our Income Support Delivery System, the database that issues the cheques, the income assistance, so that four different categories would work for also training of all of our income assistance staff across the territory, and then each community was classified into those four categories.

We can provide a package explaining the whole calculations if needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for your response. Yes, when we're doing standing committee, that's not televised, so if people want to know about how the department goes about doing it, that's why we ask the questions here as well.

Can you give us an example, then, about the food baskets in one community versus another and what the differences are, like just in cost? Like you say, it's taken into your calculations. Maybe you don't have that information, I'm not sure, but do you have what a typical food basket would cost, let's say, in Taloyoak versus Coral Harbour? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry, but we don't have that kind of detail, unfortunately. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I think it has a big impact on what the income benefits of people.

I know that with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, they have some kind of calculations they do for the cost of living in a community. Have you worked with the Nunavut Housing Corporation in determining the cost of living in a community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When it pertains to housing, we have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister give us an idea on what kinds of things they have cooperated on together? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, the deputy minister participates in some of the working groups, so she would like to answer that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One example would be the rent of our income assistance clients. I know that there have been lengthy discussions between the two departments on what the actual amounts owed are. Often we have income assistance clients that come off of income assistance and then are expected to pay for their own bills themselves once they're off of assistance. There are questions of how much is owed. That's just one example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Thank you, Ms. Niego. Ms. Angnakak, you're done? Okay. Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, the new electronic Income Assistance Delivery System is currently being implemented.

How many community income support workers have received the necessary training to date and how is the implementation progressing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The training of our staff for the new system has been completed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This one is about income assistance payments. They're projected to increase by \$2 million in this year, 2019-2020. However, last year, 2018-19, they increased by more than \$6 million. I'm wondering what factors were taken into consideration projecting the need for income assistance funding across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's because last year it wasn't a full fiscal year. That's why it's an increase this year because it's going to be a full year of the reform implementation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question is on page 176 of the business plan. (interpretation) This one is for low-income seniors and it's called (interpretation ends) *Senior Citizens Benefits Act*. My question is: with regard to the Federal Guaranteed Income Supplement for the Nunavut senior citizens' supplementary, is there an increase if this is a co-managed payment program with the federal government and is included on the monthly Old Age Security cheque?

An elder told me that each day, families go to their homes for lunch to eat, they gather all together, and the old age pension fund benefit at the end of the month is not enough to maintain that type of buying and he wanted an increase. Is there a way to increase that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is federal funded and it goes through the federal government, so it would be at their privy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first line of questioning is going to be related to the daycare user subsidy. Last year there was some discussion about the department's intention of changing it to an extended benefit of income assistance. I would like to ask the minister for an update on that and if that came about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The deputy minister would like to answer that question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the update is that the daycare user subsidy has not been changed as of yet. There were inconsistencies between the regions for what is available in regard to daycare and so it's still under review. It will take some time yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll reiterate what I said last year. I definitely would like to encourage the department not to move in the direction of making this an extended benefit to income assistance recipients. As I stated last year, there are many low-income families not on income assistance that definitely do rely on this daycare user subsidy. There are many working poor families that really require this assistance. I would like request the minister to take that into consideration and provide us with an update when something comes up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

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

Chairman. (interpretation ends) I remember those discussions last year too, so we certainly will be paying attention because we haven't changed it yet this year how the funding...who is benefiting from it. We will certainly keep track. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number of years ago I heard an official from the Department of Family Services was speaking on the radio encouraging more people to apply as the funds were lapsing every year. Is this program still lapsing funds and is the department still conducting an open call for more applicants to apply to this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes to his question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are lapsing; the program line item is still lapsing, and yes they're still doing a public call for applicants? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, it's

underutilized unfortunately and we should actually do a callout, yes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on. In the environmental scan in the business plan it states that the number of total income assistance recipients had increased by over 600. Is that a typical increase in a year? Is that about average? Is that a smaller increase than normal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question, but I have to say we don't have that kind of detail with us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to another question. For those individuals who are on income assistance, how do they receive their funds and specifically, how do those individuals without bank accounts receive their income assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I certainly know that a lot of them do have

bank accounts and they actually like it because if there happens to be a storm or something, because it's automated now, if they receive it regularly, it's much easier to process than trying to run. I don't know how many don't have bank accounts. I don't have that number, but a majority of our clients do have bank accounts. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. If I could add, I think his question was: the ones that don't have bank accounts, how do they receive their funds? Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Depending on the community, some get a cheque through NorthMart or the Co-ops. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm familiar with those that don't have bank accounts and are reliant on Northern We Financial cards to receive their income support, which has an exorbitant amount of fees and hidden costs associated. These people on income support are living with below average income and they have to pay to get their money. That's why I was wondering how many people on income support don't have actual bank accounts. I think that the department should closely monitor that. I would like to request the minister to commit to following up with the actual amount of income assistance recipients that don't have bank accounts. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. This is part of the Reform No. 11, Improve access to other income supports and financial services.

We are currently working with the local banks to determine ways to bring access to bank accounts to all communities. We have been working with CDOs, or community development officers, GLOs, or government liaison officers, and volunteer organizations to provide support to clients to apply for EI, CPP, all the federal kind of programming.

This is part of our Reform 11 that has not fully been accomplished with. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get right to the question here. Income assistance, the minister had made a minister's statement on February 21, 2019 in reference to "...combining the food and clothing benefit and reducing the number of client categories to make income assistance easier to understand..." Has that undertaking already occurred all over Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, last year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to that again, before you combined that, was there an increase in the clothing allowance seeing that income assistance clients were receiving clothing allowance only once per year? Was that also taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately not. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will there be an increase in the upcoming proposed years due to cost of living and influx of cost within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Obviously this reform was great, but it seems there might have been gaps and we will certainly be reviewing what those gaps were and hopefully come up

with an appropriate business plan to accommodate those gaps.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving along in light of one of my colleagues asking the questions regarding on your business plan, 176, on that particular page, you have the Senior Fuel Subsidy and the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit. My question is and I have asked this in the House where a senior citizen's age has not been harmonized by NTI, the government, and the federal government: how are the seniors made aware of what they are eligible for and are they also assisted to ensure that they get these benefits? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question. Obviously I think the service providers for elders have to do a better job in communicating. I'm just thinking; we do have a minister responsible for elders. Maybe through that, we can better coordinate services available for our elders in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I ask that is there are some officials that will say,

“Oh, that's not the responsibility of my department.” It just starts going around for the elders. Are they directed to the appropriate or in this case like the one that you indicated to my colleague is a federal program? Most communities don't have federal officials within the communities. How are they assisted in that aspect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Our frontline workers, you have asked questions that I don't think just say that answer, I think a lot of them will sit down and actually help them. I think that's why they're overworked sometimes because they're not just dealing with; they're assisting people who are in need. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think she read right into my next question. Prior to coming to Iqaluit, sometimes I do my rounds when possible. Income support assistance workers in Baker Lake have been working and delivering their services with aged, old office furniture. Will they be receiving new furniture in the next few months if we approve this budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. I think furniture is a capital expenditure, so I'm not going to allow that question. If you have a different question, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You need that equipment to do your office and maintenance. When we look at income support assistance, are we up to pace with the cost of living in Nunavut or are we behind other provinces? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just bear with us while I'm finding the page.

No, because unfortunately that's probably the page that we said is missing. The detailed information and how we did the calculation for the food basket is all linked. Unfortunately we don't have that detailed information with us, *Itsivautaaq*.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the environmental scan that Mr. Lightstone mentioned, these numbers here are really sad when you consider them: 15,000 people on income assistance in our territory, 15,000 people. In my hometown of Arviat we're looking at 1,150 people on income assistance. If you need evidence that shows that you need more investment in education from Arctic College, from different levels of government, those are the numbers right there, page 3-7.

When we're going through the different departments, I keep on asking whether communities with higher unemployment will get consideration. Target your funding where it will do the most good.

These numbers should be factoring in to where we are investing in things like mine training and things like adult education.

When it comes to the Income Assistance Program, last year in the O&M budget I asked about student attendance and how it affects income assistance clients. It was confirmed by the department and minister at the time that there is interdepartmental coordination. This is from last year, "Income support works with the schools on attendance record."

What is the consequence for an income support recipient if none of their children are attending school? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm not aware of any consequences to the parents. I know that if you yourself are on income assistance and going through the programs or you're of age to have income assistance and going to school and your attendance is not... I know we have consequences there, but not for parents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister's statement from February 21 mentions that in 2017 the changes that were implemented reduced "the penalties for persons on income assistance leaving their productive choice and for those who have not

reached an 80 percent attendance rate at school.” For people who are on income assistance and don’t reach an 80 percent attendance rate, what is the penalty? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I’m just going to find it. The change meant that the clients who do not have an 80 percent attendance for the month prior to their current month assessment will only have their basic allowance reduced by 50 percent for the current assessment month only. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think it’s a real difficult job that the income support workers have. (interpretation) One feels compassion towards income assistance recipients who are going through hard times and being hungry.

(interpretation ends) The minister mentioned earlier in the House regarding this G.R.E.A.T. program, and I think she said it was great program. I this environmental scan it says that since 2015 “it has been delivered in 24 communities, with 198 participants completing the program.” Out of 15,000 income support recipients, 198 people have completed the program from the last three years or two years.

Are there any plans to ramp up this

G.R.E.A.T. program? It seems like you would need a lot more of this program being delivered for it to make even a small dent in the number of income assistance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For clarification, it’s not all of the income supports who go through the G.R.E.A.T. program. For those that choose to go to the 14-week when it’s available in their community, there has been a total of 306 have participated in the G.R.E.A.T. Out of the 306, 200 completed. That’s why I was saying it’s a great program. I’m not looking at the overall, everyone on income assistance; it’s for those that did attend, 200 have completed it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The G.R.E.A.T. program is a great program. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think it could be a great program if it was maybe better resourced and maybe expanded on, but right now the total number of income assistance recipients increased by 600 in one year. At this rate the G.R.E.A.T. program isn’t even tracking that.

Anyway I’m happy to see that these reforms have been implemented with income assistance and I note that the department’s priorities...I’m switching to the business plan now on page 177. It’s developing an evaluation plan to see

if these reforms were actually effective, which is good.

Another priority for this year is “Strengthen the delivery of Income Assistance in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions.” What is the issue with the delivery of income assistance in these two regions that this is trying to address? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, the assistant deputy minister is going to answer that question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Vardy.

Ms. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan to strengthen the income assistance payments in those regions is to add a position as a verification and investigation officer to verify payments, processes, the calculations so that we make sure that the payments that we process and we pay are the accurate amounts, and so that also we don't need to be going back to the client for the overpayment. That's the type of work we want to improve to make sure that we've got a good process, we've got a review, a dedicated position that will review those payments for those regions.

We have also been doing audit of client files, of the community files as well, as part of making sure that there's compliance. We are making sure that all the payments and the documentations

are submitted before we process those income assistance benefits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Vardy. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. Will this work strengthen the appeals process? Right now if a client is denied income assistance by the worker, there's an appeals process, but my understanding is that it's quite lengthy and in some cases the clients don't have any other source of income. They could have basically no food in their house and they submit the paperwork for an appeals process.

My question is: what is the current average turnaround for an appeal on income support denial? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Part of our reform, there was also a review of the appeals process recently and made changes to the *Income Assistance Regulations* in order to strengthen and streamline the appeals process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. A part of his question was he wanted to know how long the appeal process takes from the time somebody applies for it to the time a decision is made. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: The Act states 30 days, but internally within the department it is usually a two-week turnaround. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is the department satisfied with that? I know in the Act it says 30 days. Is the department aiming in this next fiscal year going forward to bring that number down to, let's say, a week or is the department satisfied with this two-week turnaround? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Obviously we would like it to, but you have to consider what other tasks are going on. Imagine in a community when you have one or two frontline workers in that community serving the whole community, they coordinate and get the people involved in that appeal. Obviously I would love it for it to go from two weeks to one week. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have been told by constituents on income support that they encounter issues around tax season when they receive some income from Revenue Canada. They get denied income support

the following month and it breaks up their income. Is this a common issue that is experienced by income support clients? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know I've had discussions around this. My understanding is, for example, tax year, when they have an influx of new money because of the return on taxes, they used to be penalized. My understanding is no, not now because if you're going to get money, you usually try and... . My goodness, if it's a hunter, it allows them, if it's a big return, they can go get a skidoo or canoe to go do their hunting. My understanding was when it comes to this windfall because of their tax returns, they are not penalized.

I don't know if the assistant deputy minister wants to expand on that, but that's my understanding. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Vardy, you wanted to add to that or you're okay? Ms. Vardy.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: She's okay.

Chairman: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I will follow up directly with the minister on that one. I'm almost done here.

The fuel subsidy program, it seems like the delivery of that is problematic and it

has been for a number of years. Would it be possible to give income support workers the authority to cut cheques out of that budget to seniors who meet the program criteria? I'm referring to seniors who are homeowners. For example, in the middle of winter, if they're out of fuel, we know they can't go to the housing corporation for assistance with their fuel. This is money that's in a budget, but the delivery is problematic. I'm suggesting an alternative way of delivering the money which is in the budget. If they meet the criteria, would that be something that could be piloted in this upcoming fiscal year?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Currently I think it is receipt based. I think that's the way it works right now. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's correct, it is receipt based. I think, if you come with your receipt for that month, you can be reimbursed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can the minister commit to looking at alternative delivery mechanisms for this such as income support workers? It's clear that how it's being delivered right now doesn't really work. We also know through discussion in this House that there are seniors who are homeowners who run out of fuel. I'm trying to connect the two issues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I will commit to reviewing it. Obviously it is an issue, potentially even in having a quick sidebar with my assistant deputy minister even, can we potentially pay that bill directly to the provider. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister, for looking into that. My last question is, the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit, the amount budgeted for this item is going down by \$40,000 this year. What's the reason for that decrease? I may have a follow-up question depending on the response. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) We're trying to find the actual... . Through you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) I'm sorry, (interpretation ends) assistant deputy minister wants to answer that.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Vardy.

Ms. Vardy: The reason why we decreased that budget for the seniors' supplementary benefit is simply because our actuals from last year, 2017-18, was down to \$1,329,000. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My understanding is that this benefit is not indexed to inflation; it just stays at the same level. The benefit that the seniors are receiving is actually going down in terms of purchasing power. Can the department please look at adjusting this so that seniors aren't getting less and less money each year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We acknowledged that this fund is underutilized. Year to year the department reviews upcoming projects, so they move a little bit here, move a little bit there. Next year it may very well be the same amount. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not good to hear that. The money that is geared to seniors should not be decreasing and not just staying at one amount. It should be increasing because we know that everything else is increasing every year. That's just a comment. (interpretation ends) No, not a question, Mr. Chairman, I'm done. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Income Assistance. Total Operations and

Maintenance, to be Voted. \$62,060,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page L-7. Career Development. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have two, I think. Your draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that the process is underway to make changes to the *Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act* and Regulations. Can you describe how the proposed changes may impact the way current programs are organized and delivered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have actually been waiting for this one because there's so much going on, positive things that I feel will assist our people in taking job opportunities that are coming within our territory.

The apprenticeship unit supports skills workers and apprentices on their way to becoming journeymen. Currently we have 115 active apprentice and 10 trades qualifiers. For your benefit, Career Development has seven areas of work that we do to accommodate anything under career development. One is pre-employment essential skills; two, entry level training; three, occupational training; four, entrepreneurship; five, academic education; six, employment assistance; seven, employment strategy and policy. These are all things we consider in any of our programs.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I want to go back to the minister's statement this afternoon where she said that there was modernizing the housing maintainer occupational standard. Is this part of this program? I was asking the other day the housing minister to see if he could come up with funding for more maintainers when we're getting more houses within the communities. I'm just wondering if this is part of the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, it is. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the environmental scan, it appears that the FANS participation rate has seen a decrease. I was wondering once again: just as the income support, does FANS typically see a fluctuation, and any idea of why FANS has seen a decrease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman. (interpretation ends) This fluctuates from year to year, hopefully because some have graduated. Some may have alternative funding they may have found. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're on the topic of FANS, last year I brought up my concerns over the basic grant that is available to FANS recipients. Considering the purpose of FANS states that it is to reduce financial barrier for Nunavummiut to attend post-secondary education, yet it doesn't provide the full financial support required to cover tuition.

I would like to ask the minister: what has the minister done over the last year to look into the issue of the basic tuition grant not covering the actual full tuition costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Something we neglect sometimes to mention that really helps support the FANS students is the scholarships that they do get. Grade 12 scholarships are \$500, undergraduate scholarships are \$750, master scholarships are \$1,000, and doctorate scholarships are \$1,500. Any of the students that get FANS can get these scholarships. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear that there is an additional scholarship provided based on the program being taken, but it's not just the tuition that is not fully covered; it's also the cost of the textbooks. Where it currently sits, FANS covers \$200 a semester for textbooks. When I was going to college, I was paying \$200 per textbook. With a full course load, that's \$1,000 a semester for textbooks. I would like to ask why the textbook allowance or amount is still only \$200 and further, why was it originally set at \$200? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't have all that level of detail, but I certainly have a spreadsheet that is giving me differences between FANS and ALTS. When it comes to books, it says for FANS it's included with the tuition fee with a cap, which is up to \$6,000, and your tuition fees are up to \$6,855 a year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at the FANS handbook now and I don't see where it stipulates that information. Would the minister be able to point that out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: One

moment. I'm just getting the handbook out.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, in the FANS, I don't know which one you have, but the one we have, it's under payments. It's got here basic grant and supplementary grant are tuition, books, and fees. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: when was the last time that this basic grant; tuition, book, and fees amount last saw an increase? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're going to be doing a review of the FANS in 2019-2020, and hope to implement those findings in 2021. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are currently 402 FANS applicants who were approved funding, and every year I'm assuming there's going to be at least the same amount, unless the trend continues going downward. The way I see it, the purpose of financial assistance is to remove the financial barrier preventing Nunavummiut from attaining post-secondary or trades training. Waiting to

2021 to make an adjustment would allow the financial barrier to continue to prevent our youth from going to school.

The way I see it, I think, if we ever really want to attain Article 23 and have 85 percent Inuit participation in government employment, we need to send as many high school grads to college and university and trade school as possible. What I think needs to be done is completely remove the financial barrier and provide full tuition amounts. Would the minister agree? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I certainly agree. The Department of Family Services has done a lot in a short period considering the reform of the income. Our mandate obviously is to look at the people most at risk, the most in need, and unfortunately in 2013 when the departments were split, FANS is under Family Services. FANS to us, we're a body that provides that assistance and we haven't had the opportunity to look any deeper than that because what we do under Family Services is FANS. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure what to think of that response, so I'll just move on to my next line of questioning. My next line of questioning is going to be regarding the grants and contributions. I would like to

enquire about the Literacy and Essential Skills Development Program that's offered. What sorts of organizations receive funding under that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What page are you looking at? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was actually looking at the grants and contributions report from 2017-18. I'll just go directly to the point, Mr. Chairman. Listed under that program was Nunavut Sivuniksavut as a recipient of funding. I was curious why NS was not included under the summary of grants and contributions in the main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I stated earlier that the purpose of Family Services is to support people at risk and people of need. This government, we certainly agreed and I know I certainly as the Minister of Finance take seriously my job, an open and accountable minister. There had been reviews of FANS in the past and there are criteria that have to fit under ALTS, under FANS, and as much as Nunavut Sivuniksavut program is a great program, it does not fit into mine. I'm

not going to play around and wiggle and make something fit. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program has been reliant on core funding from the Department of Family Services since the department's inception.

Would the minister be able to tell the Assembly about the contribution funding that the Department of Family Services has historically provided to Nunavut Sivuniksavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't have that level of detail in front of me. I can tell you that FANS is still going to support the students through the application process. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Mr. Lightstone, I know we're here to deal with next year's budget and trying to get historical information, you may want to do it in other forums and try to stick with the budget. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the 2019-2020 budget, I was informed that the Department of Family Services had made a decision to cease Nunavut Sivuniksavut's core funding. I would

like to enquire if that is true. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's correct. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a former participant of Nunavut Sivuniksavut, I fully understand the purpose and the benefits of the program, and I was shocked when I found out that the Government of Nunavut has decided that Nunavut Sivuniksavut is not worthy of receiving this core funding. I would like to ask the minister: what led the minister to make the decision to stop this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Our Premier would like to answer that question through the Chair. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Premier, are you prepared to answer the question? Please go ahead.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding that the member is talking about is not the total funding that they get. This funding started from

the last government and that's why I can speak to it. They were funded \$175,000 a year for three years and at the end of three years, that funding was going to stop. I'm pretty sure that they operated on more than \$175,000 a year and I'm sure that they operated for many years before three years ago. This funding had an end date to it and the end date came. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure who to direct my question to. From what I gather from the Premier's response, the funding in question was not meant to be ongoing and this is the first that I have heard of this. Further, the amount of funding provided to Nunavut Sivuniksavut of \$175,000 is miniscule to the Government of Nunavut, but to a non-profit organization that is trying to improve the potential of our youth, I think it's more than significant to them and likewise for our youth. I would like to ask: what was the determining factor in deciding not to renew this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My department operates on a need basis, not political. Political decisions were made last government that left me to try to make it fit into our programs and it doesn't. I took a stand because I have ethics. I have a job to do. I stood my ground, and they wrote a letter to the Premier to appeal that. Executive

Council made a decision. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response, minister. The minister is indicating that the funding was political, but I don't understand why that is. How was the decision to provide Nunavut Sivuniksavut a political decision, and why was the decision to stop funding Nunavut Sivuniksavut political? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Before my time, there had been reviews of different programs within the department and, through that review process, realized NS does not fit into the criteria of the funding available that we provide. There are criteria for a reason. It's what guides us. They are created for a reason. Unfortunately through that process...and this have evolved. It went from one year; it's got three years now. It has evolved. Maybe through the combination of the two, it did not fit the programs funding that we have available. Unfortunately it did not fit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm a little disturbed about this right now with income support rising, requesting for an additional \$2 million. When I look at Career Development, a lot of the

funding that... (interpretation)
Regarding the funds being requested, they have decreased dramatically.

(interpretation ends) I'll give you an example. I'm an 18-year-old. I can't apply for housing because I'm not 19. I can understand families that are struggling with the high cost of food, but I'm an 18-year-old applying for income support; my income support can now increase. Does that not disable a youth to apply for further schooling because income support recipient is now increasing?

When I look at this, you're increasing the income support and Adult Learning and Training Support funding is now lowering within the department. I'm looking at a youth that has been further disabled... You're pushing a youth to apply for more income support and not go towards training and funding. I'm sorry, but I don't understand where the department is leading youth.

My question is: where is the department in trying to assess youth to further their education if the department is pushing people to get income assistance with a higher assistance? Do you get what I'm saying? Income assistance recipients are getting higher, but the Career Development Division is getting lower in their annual. I'm sorry, but I don't understand where the department is going with this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Sheutiapik.

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

Qujannamiik, Margaret, for that question. I was anticipating that actually. There have been movements and shuffles from funding from Career Development this year, but it's not impacting what the Career Development is doing because they get a bulk of federal funding. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand where the minister is going in terms of block funding and who provides funding. I know the details of it because I did work as a career development officer for years, and I know where the block funding and GN funding breaks down. It's disturbing that Adult Learning and Training Support, which is more the community-based funding programs, is lowered compared to last fiscal year. I really hope that career development officers and the department will push youth to get into school.

It's very disturbing that Nunavut Sivuniksavut will be impacted knowing that a lot of the youth go there and because of its success, it has become two years. To cut funding like that, it's very disturbing. It just seems that we're not pushing our youth to go to school for further training, but we're increasing the income support funding. If we're going to provide an incentive to help our youth to go to school, I just feel like the money is being taken away in the wrong areas and more money is given in the areas where youth should be pushed to go to school.

The Career Development Division is

that. This is the area where the department knows the youth should be pushed more to get into training. I'm very upset with this personally because I don't see... Like I stated, if I'm 18 years old and in high school or just getting out of high school, I don't really need to go school because the income assistance benefits are getting higher. I'll end it with that.

Chairman: I think that was just a comment, so we will leave it at that. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just yawned.

(interpretation ends) On this Career Development, there have been some staff shifts here and one of the offices is in Arviat, so it's concerning for me. You have shifted 10 PYs from Career Development over to Directorate, and you have moved one PY from Career Development Headquarters. In terms of that, I'm not so much interested in moving from one division to another. I'm interested in whether PYs were actually moved from one community to another, so if the minister could clarify this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The positions were not moved; it's just movement of funding from one division to another, but the positions were not moved from the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thanks, minister, for confirming that. Looking at the information item on page L-8, we probably won't be having questions on that and it is about the Student Loan Revolving Fund, which is administered out the FANS office, I believe. It looks like you give out about \$270,000 per year in loans and then you're getting paid back \$65,000 or \$50,000.

Anyway I'm not so much interested in the exact amount. It just appears that the loans are not being paid back anywhere close to the amount they're being paid out. Will replacing the computer system at the FANS office help with this problem? I realize it is capital, but I'm asking about the operational impact of that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know this revolving funds for loans has always been a hot topic because of the old debts, but you have to remember that we don't collect it all because part of it is remissible. If a student completes their training, there's a percentage they don't need to return and that's why it's always going to show that you're not going to collect all of it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Will a new computer system or would a new computer system help the operations of this fund? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: Yes, it will. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would just like to say that I support my colleague when it comes to the idea of providing more generous benefits for our students. I think we need to err on the side of being generous to our Nunavut students so maybe they could eat out once in a while instead of macaroni and Mr. Noodles that are the student diet or used to be in my day.

(interpretation) We have to invest more on our students. I know that there's going to be a review of the (interpretation ends) student financial assistance, (interpretation) but I understand that the funding that is provided is only under the regulations. If there's a need to change it, you can instantly change it. (interpretation ends) You don't have to wait for a review to tell you that "Yes, we should be giving more money to our students." That's my understanding, if the minister could confirm if I'm correct or not. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.

Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand that question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main, could you clarify your question, please.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We will take books for example. In order to increase the amount that's paid for books, it's just a change in the regulations. Am I correct? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Would the minister be willing to implement some, we will call them, interim measures to increase the amounts paid to students beginning in the fall season? We have about four or five months before our students would leave for school in the fall. Will the minister commit to putting in some interim increases on the amounts that students receive for tuition, books, travel, and living expenses? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. I can't commit. I can commit to reviewing it because I don't know how it's going to impact the budget we have in front of us and how it might have a trickling effect. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would really help if there were more positions filled at our office in Arviat. I would like that to be considered, although it's just a comment. (interpretation ends) No further questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Was there a question in there? It was just a comment? Okay. Thank you. We're on Career Development. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$17,598,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to page L-3. Department Summary. Family Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$157,319,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I was really looking forward to going through this process, but I hope that if there are other challenges or ideas, please let's not wait 'til the next session. I am very easily accessible and I'll take to heart what I hear. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for being here the last couple of days to answer our questions. At that, the Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out.

I ask members to remain in their seats. We are going to continue to the opening comments of the next department. We're going to start off with Ms. Ehaloak. Are you ready to present your opening comments? Ms. Ehaloak.

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear before the Committee of the Whole today to present the Department of Justice's draft 2019-2020 operations and maintenance estimates. The Department of Justice is seeking for total approval for \$125,512,000 for the Department of Justice's O&M expenditures for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The total

expenditures will include the following:

- One-time funding of \$2.84 million for the RCMP to replace eight staff housing units which are beyond their lifecycle in the communities of Cape Dorset, which are two; Igloolik, two; and Taloyoak, four for phase 1. This one-time investment will save RCMP tremendous amount of maintenance costs in the replaced houses;
- Funding to support the containment team for the RCMP. The containment team deployment is a part of an integrated response for calls involving an emergency response team. This containment team is the first on the scene when a serious or critical incident unfolds and secures the scene and keeps Nunavummiut safe while the full emergency response team is activated;
- The creation of director of forfeiture position to establish the Nunavut Unlawful Property Forfeiture office;
- The establishment of an ATIPP coordinator/privacy policy analyst. This position will increase the capacity of the department to improve *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* services;
- Four juridical officers responsible for civil and criminal registries to cover basic court operational needs;
- The Nunavut Court of Justice continues to experience a heavy caseload, which places a higher demand for transcription and audio requests. Two court transcribers are

requested for the court to meet this demand.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will now take any questions from the committee members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Ms. Nakashuk, please go ahead.

Ms. Nakashuk: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Department of Justice.

The department's proposed 2019-2020 operations and maintenance budget of \$125.5 million represents a 3 percent increase from its 2018-19 main estimates. The number of positions in the department has increased by 13 PYs to 398 PYs, which represents a 3.4 [percent] increase from its 2018-19 main estimates.

Policing services across Nunavut are provided under a 20-year contract with the RCMP which was signed in 2012. The department's 2019-2022 business plan indicates that there are currently a total of 162 RCMP positions in Nunavut, including regular RCMP officers, civilians, and public servants, which is an increase of over 10 positions compared to numbers provided in the 2018-2021 business plan. Members note the priority to recruit more Inuit to join the RCMP instead of participating in the community constable program.

Standing committee members support initiatives to provide orientation and language training for new RCMP members that will assist in their integration into Nunavut communities. Members were pleased to note that a number of detachments currently have Inuktitut-speaking staff members and look forward to further progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman, one of the priorities of the Government of Nunavut's Five-Year Crime Prevention Strategy is to "Support police efforts to implement youth-based community policing initiatives, including addressing family violence and sexual abuse." Members have expressed serious concerns with respect to the high rates of sexual abuse across Nunavut, in particular the sexual abuse of children. It was felt that greater efforts could be made to address this issue in collaboration with other departments and agencies.

The *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2017. The Department of Justice's proposed 2019-2020 main estimates include funding for the establishment of the [director] of forfeiture position with the plan to open the office in the new fiscal year. Members look forward to progress in the implementation of the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* and stronger action to combat bootlegging and illegal drug trafficking in Nunavut communities.

The standing committee notes that the proposed 2019-2020 budget for the Legal Services Board of \$11,818,000 remains unchanged for the past few years and is not projected to increase during the 2019-2020 or 2020-21 fiscal years. A number of concerns have been

expressed with respect to the Legal Services Board's budget development and approval process. It has been noted that federal funding has been made available to the Legal Services Board to increase access to Inuit court workers and members look forward to a comprehensive report on the success of this initiative.

One of the priorities of the Department of Justice has been to "Expand the current Justice of the Peace Program into the communities by investing resources to establish regional Justice of the Peace offices and facilities in each region." It has been noted that to date not all communities have full-time Justices of the Peace.

The Department of Justice administers a number of pieces of important legislation, including the *Family Abuse Prevention Act*. One of the department's priorities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year will be to review this and other territorial offences legislation. The standing committee encourages the department to ensure that annual reports concerning the administration of justice in our territory are tabled in a timely manner and on a regular basis. The standing committee notes in addition the importance of ensuring that adequate resources are available for the Office of the Chief Coroner to hold inquests and other activities and to ensure that the office prepares and issues its annual reports in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee fully supports initiatives in the area of crime prevention and would appreciate receiving information on how the department evaluates the success of the various programs which are funded for

this purpose across Nunavut communities. In particular, members look forward to updates on the success of the department's new therapeutic treatment program which has been described as another alternative to standard criminal justice programs and which incorporates traditional Inuit counselling. As well as information on the success rates of diversion programs, traditional counselling offered to inmates and offender reintegration programs, members would appreciate receiving information on the factors that contribute to recidivism or repeat offenders.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to review her department's draft business plan and main estimates for 2019-2020, members were given to understand that all community justice outreach workers will eventually become Government of Nunavut employees.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I make a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: It's not passed yet.

>> *Laughter*

We have a motion on the floor to report progress and it's not debatable. All those

in favour of the motion. Opposed.

>> *Laughter*

Okay, I really do have to do a count because it was pretty close. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 main estimates and would like to report progress. 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. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 6:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 13
 - Bill 15
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 17
 - Bill 18
 - Bill 21
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned and in accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 17 – 5(2), we will stand adjourned until Wednesday, March 6, at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 21:44*

