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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Paul Quassa, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Development and Transportation*

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(Arviat South)
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Minister responsible for the Utility Rates
Review Council*

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

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
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Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister
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Immigration; Minister responsible for the
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(South Baffin)
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister
of Education; Minister of Languages*

Hon. Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

*Minister responsible for Nunavut
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 5, 2020**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasié, Mr. Joëlie Kaernerk, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapiq, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 9:02*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa) (interpretation): Good morning. This morning, Ms. Towtongie, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning. I say “good morning” to Nunavummiut and all the visitors in the gallery.

Speaker’s Statement

Before we get started this morning, I want to make a short statement. My tongue froze yesterday or I need new glasses. I stated March 6 yesterday when it was supposed to be March 5. I’m Quassa, so my voice was frozen.

>>*Laughter*

Let’s proceed. Ministers’ Statements. (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier, Premier Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements

**Minister’s Statement 408 – 5(2):
Arctic Frontiers Emerging
Leaders 2020**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good morning” to you. We have lost a loved one in Arviat, so I send you my condolences.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share information with my fellow members about the Arctic Frontiers Emerging Leaders 2020 program. Arctic Frontiers is an annual program held in Tromsø, Norway that brings together approximately 30 young professionals and Ph.D. students from around the world. This year’s theme was “Power of Knowledge” held from January 22 to 30, 2020.

Mr. Speaker, for the sixth year in a row, the Government of Nunavut has partnered with Global Affairs Canada to provide an opportunity for one participant from Nunavut to attend this program. This year Jessica Kotierk, Manager and Curator of the Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum, was selected to attend as our territory’s representative. In her role, Ms. Kotierk is engaged in many of the practical tasks of running a community heritage centre, including educating visitors in a variety of arctic topics to a diverse audience. Her work also has taken her to Switzerland and Copenhagen, where she worked with museum collections with focuses looking into the past.

Arctic Frontiers 2020 focused on three main sessions: the High North in a Security Perspective, Blue Growth:

Feeding the World from the North, and Power of Knowledge. Arctic Frontiers mixes technical, social and cultural events with mentors from academia, businesses, and the public sector to create an inspiring and educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is proud to facilitate opportunities such as this, and we are proud that Ms. Kotierk represented Nunavut so well. We encourage partnership and collaboration with our arctic and circumpolar neighbours. Sharing knowledge and best practices and finding common solutions to our challenges and opportunities help Nunavut at all levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 409 – 5(2):
Motor Vehicles Information
System**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In 2019 in the fall session of this Assembly, I rose before the members to inform them of the success we had had with the pilot project we had undertaken in Taloyoak to connect a government liaison office directly into our Motor Vehicles Information System.

As the members may recall, this connection meant that a motor vehicles transaction initiated in Taloyoak could be reviewed and approved in virtual

“real-time” and that a driver's licence or identification card could be in production in Ottawa in days rather than weeks or months.

Mr. Speaker, only a matter of weeks after I gave that statement, the entire government network was seized in the ransomware attack, and our planning and momentum to roll similar improvements out to other communities was temporarily interrupted.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that the entire Motor Vehicles Information System has been recovered, that our systems are again fully operational, and that staff have cleared the backlog of applications that built up while the system was down. What this means is that we are ready to pick up this initiative and to begin rolling this improvement out to other communities.

My staff is working with technical resources from Community and Government Services and with Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to develop the plan to bring these improvements to every community. I look forward to updating the members as this initiative progresses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 410 – 5(2):
Alcohol Education Committee
Conference in Iqaluit**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide an

update about the training conference the government hosted for alcohol education committees in Iqaluit a few weeks ago.

Alcohol education committees operate in the 12 communities that have chosen to restrict liquor. By making decisions about who in their community can purchase and import alcohol, these committees are central to our territory's long-standing system of local control. The alcohol education committees also play a role in promoting healthy choices related to alcohol.

Mr. Speaker and members, our goal with this conference was to provide training and support to the newly elected and appointed alcohol education committee members from across the territory. As alcohol impacts all communities in Nunavut, we also reached out to invite unrestricted municipalities and those that have chosen local prohibition.

Mr. Speaker, although bad weather got in the way for some, I am pleased to report that representatives from Arctic Bay, Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Rankin Inlet participated in the three-day event.

Mr. Speaker, the conference itself included different learning opportunities, including workshop discussions led by the "Let's Be Aware" team, conversations with the Embrace Life Council and the Office of the Representative of Children and Youth, and presentations from Department of Health officials about harm reduction and addictions treatment. Most importantly, there was lots of opportunity for conference participants

to share their own experiences, offer local perspectives, and exchange ideas with one another about how we can continue to work towards reducing alcohol-related harms.

Since this conference, we have continued our work in communities. Over the past few weeks we have visited Naujaat, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Clyde River, and Kimmirut. During our stays we visit schools, health centres, youth and community centres, RCMP and hamlet offices to discuss the impacts of alcohol. When they can, officials also take the opportunity to participate in alcohol education committee meetings as a way to learn directly about the challenges alcohol education committees face.

I would like to thank all alcohol education committee members across the territory for your work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Patterk Netser.

**Minister's Statement 411 – 5(2):
Update on Renovation Project in
Rankin Inlet**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My younger brother and sister-in-law are in my thoughts this morning, as well as their dear children.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise today to provide an update

on a renovation project in Rankin Inlet. As members may recall, Nunavut Arctic College and the Nunavut Housing Corporation worked collaboratively to renovate a public housing unit that needed major renovations. The corporation made a unit available to Sanatuliqsarvik students, allowing them to get first-hand training in the specific trades in which they were trained. The students also gained valuable experience in seeing a project through from beginning to end.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that work on the house was completed. The three- bedroom unit is now available for final inspection. Once the inspection is completed, the Rankin Inlet Housing Association will assign the unit to a family on their waitlist.

Mr. Speaker, eight students were involved in this project, which ran from July 2019 to January 2020. I would like to recognize these students for their commitment and achievement. They are Jimmy Tapiana from Rankin Inlet; Yvon Aliyak from Rankin Inlet; Simeonie Noolook from Rankin Inlet; Tiana Gordon from Rankin Inlet; Jon Maktar from Rankin Inlet; Terrence Mapsalak from Naujaat; Manuel Ukutak from Arviat; and Gordon Jr. Okalik from Whale Cove.

I would also like to recognize the various instructors that guided these students in this learning. They include Joseph Putulik, Harry Ittinuar, Kaluk Tatty, Joe Verbeek, John McLeod, and John Pearson.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the critical role the Department of Family Services played in

the success of this venture. Family Services provided students with the financial assistance they required to participate in the Adult Learning and Trades Support program. Mr. Speaker, this funding program is a lifeline for Nunavummiut looking to enter the trades sector in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this project is a wonderful example of how collaborative work across government result in creative solutions to our territory's pressing needs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 412 – 5(2): Early Learning and Child Care Regional Training Sessions

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's okay if your tongue freezes sometimes, as it just makes you smile. I say "good morning" to the people of Nunavut and my colleagues and visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, licensed early child care facilities offer a vital service to our parents and guardians, our children, and our communities. The quality of our children's care in their early years sets the foundation for their later success. It is the Department of Education's responsibility to support parents and families and to ensure their children have access to high-quality child care in every facility in Nunavut.

This is why it is with great pleasure that

I announce that my department completed regional training sessions for early childhood educators in facilities across Nunavut. Training took place in the Kivalliq from January 21 to 23, in the Qikiqtani from February 4 to 6, and in the Kitikmeot from February 18 to 20, 2020. Training for Iqaluit staff is scheduled for March 2020. These training sessions were offered to managers and directors of licensed child care facilities to assist them with their administrative duties as well as program planning.

Mr. Speaker, this training is part of the Department of Education's three-year action plan developed from the bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada that increased the funding available for early learning and child care initiatives. Mr. Speaker, this training will have a positive, long-term impact on the overall operations of these licensed child care facilities, as well as the development and early education of the children in these facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 629 – 5(2): Clash of Cultures

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet a good day.

Mr. Speaker, I really want to clearly voice my thoughts. To use this example, my status as an Inuk, as I was taught during my youth the constellations such as the (interpretation ends) Big Dipper, (interpretation) *Qallutialuk*, but it is named *Tukturjuit* in Inuktitut. This shows the difference between the western culture and our Inuit culture.

I rise today saddened that our youth and elders no longer have any expectations amongst each other. I want to use this example of suicide. Where did it come from? What is the basis for this new tradition?

Mr. Speaker, I take immense pride, but sometimes everything clashes with our culture. Nonetheless, our customs and ancient traditions come from many millennia of experience, and we are running into these new modern traditions. As an example, Inuit are subjected to a justice system that is based on (interpretation ends) punishment.

(interpretation) We are all aware and have experienced a person who is charged, particularly younger people, when the court party arrives to their communities, they go and commit suicide. There is no avenue for the youth to dissipate their fears as they don't understand the process and what the future may hold and their future prospects. They are fearful about being incarcerated since they have nobody to explain that.

Back in the day, in Rankin Inlet we held a protest in the Inuit way, and although we weren't allowed to harvest a narwhal, a hunter harvested a tusked narwhal. The tusk was confiscated while the elders

standing around were saying, “Why don’t you take the meat and skin instead?”

Apparently the head of a narwhal is a source of income, so it was placed in an actual jail cell. In Rankin Inlet, Inuit started protesting throughout the night after holding a meeting and the crowd broke into the building and repatriated the tusk.

I’m asking for unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): The RCMP was still trying to uphold the law and had a hold of the tusk, taking it away from the Inuit, so the elders tied the officer up with the tusk and placed him on a tire by placing the narwhal head in the hole and making the officer sit with the tusk showing and then they dragged him around town. That is when Inuit empowered themselves.

Today Rankin Inlet now has a quota for narwhal, and while we were at that protest, the invisible binding that was holding back Inuit seemed to come off. Mr. Speaker, our forefathers had customary control and management of their lives and today there is no more control or ability to manage their lives. When they try to use their traditional authority, they instead are punished indeed when it comes to their children in school. Why is this antagonistic and violent attitude prevalent?

There are many Inuit who are infuriated due to the loss of their culture, and I don’t blame them for that feeling. Our forefathers fought to survive. Why is their tremendous gift transferred to us by our ancestors being spurned? Why suicide? These are the types of questions we need to ask and we have to rediscover our Inuit roots, identity and how we can meet the challenges of our future so that we no longer belittle our Inuit identity and focus on its strengths.

Our culture has been called pagans and other indigenous women were called “sqaws”. We have all read that in our classes during our schooling years, and our men were called “savages” and today that perception seems to be enduring in our minds, all the while Inuit should be thinking about repatriating their culture and many Inuit treat traditional ways much like the qallunaat.

We as MLAs and leaders have to enact changes. We focus primarily on the western way in controlling our fellow Nunavummiut. We all want to have a wonderful future and we prefer our people not to use violence as it is very devastating. We don’t want you to turn to violence, all of us here. Nonetheless, the question is: why is violence seemingly only occurring between Inuit? Many non-Inuit are not violent outwardly. We must ask this question of ourselves. I am repentant about this issue.

Only one piece of legislation includes IQ based on my knowledge following Inuit traditions and customs, yet the more important aspects of social customs and rules are completely ignored. This applies only to adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, as I wanted to speak to this

issue.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Let us please remember there are others who would also like time to make their statements. Let us proceed. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

**Member's Statement 630 – 5(2):
Appreciation of Family Services**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues, Iqalummiut, and Nunavummiut, as well as distinguished guests.

I rise today to recognize the efforts of our government. I have had the privilege of participating in three budget cycles. For the first time, I was surprised in a good way. I am genuinely pleased with all of the new initiatives that were highlighted in the minister's opening comments.

The Department of Family Services plays a crucial role in providing government programs and services that promote the wellbeing of Nunavummiut.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lightstone: I applaud Minister Sheutiapik and the Department of Family Services for the commitment and emphasis placed on providing services to those that need it the most.

>>Applause

I appreciate the efforts made to restructure and strengthen service delivery to increase focus on Nunavut's most vulnerable. On numerous occasions, members have called on our

government to increase support to address domestic and family violence, to do more for women fleeing from violence, and children that have been subjected to abuse. I cannot express how encouraging it is to see substantial progress.

>>Applause

I thank the minister, the cabinet, and the government for supplying additional funding, including \$2 million for new and existing homeless shelters, \$1 million for new and existing family violence shelters, and \$300,000 to create safe spaces for youth who find themselves in crisis.

I would like to thank this government on behalf of all of the most vulnerable Nunavummiut for taking such a significant step to ensuring their wellbeing; namely the homeless, the victims of domestic violence, and the children who need a safe space. Thank you, minister, thank you, cabinet, and thank you, government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 631 – 5(2):
Airline Merger and the
Government of Nunavut**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues, and first of all, to the people of Arviat who recently lost a loved one. I love you.

Mr. Speaker, I haven't quite grasped the meaning behind the airline industry within Nunavut and what is happening on that front now.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the merger between First Air and Canadian North has been in place for a number of months, as have been the government's new standing offer agreements for medical and duty travel which also apply, I should mention, to Calm Air, the airline in my home region.

In reviewing the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's business plan, a very interesting thing jumped off the page to me in relation to the government's new procurement process and new contracts. One section of the economic development and transportation business plan states that "By including the cost of scheduled air service available to the public, such as economy fares, in the procurement evaluation criteria, a significant reduction in the cost of air travel has been realized for much of Nunavut's travelling public."

Mr. Speaker, when I read this claim, it really made me think. Not only is the government procuring medical and duty travel tickets; the government is also playing a role in the economy class tickets available to the general public.

Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that we as a government are now subsidizing the cost of certain types of airline travel for the general public. It raises a number of questions, and I realize we are not at oral questions yet, questions like:

- What is the amount of subsidy per seat?

- How is this subsidy applied on a community-by-community basis?
- How does the government monitor where this subsidy is going?

Mr. Speaker, I will be looking for some answers at the appropriate time from the appropriate minister. It is a very interesting area. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 632 – 5(2): Tribute to Peter Taktogon

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kugluktuk's resident and well-respected elder Peter Taktogon.

Mr. Speaker, the Kugluktuk Housing Association hosted an event yesterday to celebrate Peter's retirement. For almost 50 years, that's half a century, Peter has been serving the people and the community of Kugluktuk as a skilled housing maintainer. Peter's many decades of service was recently described in the profile that was published about him in the pages of *News/North*. Although he grew up on the land, he has become a master of modern technology during the course of his long career.

Mr. Speaker, Peter has given much to his community and region, having served in a number of different capacities,

including the board of directors of Kugluktuk's hunters and trappers organization. Peter has always encouraged the community's youth to consider careers in the skilled trades and I want to reinforce that message today.

Mr. Speaker, although Peter may be retiring from his position, I have no doubt that he will continue to be an active and engaged resident of the community and a well-respected elder who deserves our thanks for a lifetime of service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Peter Taktogon. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 633 – 5(2):
Recognition of Qapik Attagutsiak**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently at the end of January, Parks Canada held a ceremony in Ottawa where they recognized prominent Inuit residents, and in particular, Qapik Attagutsiak.

During WWII, the Canadian government put out a call for bones, that would be used for part of their materials and for ammunition production, for glue and various uses and they put out a nationwide call. There were Nunavut Inuit who partook in this bone collection, and Qapik Attagutsiak is still alive as she was born in 1920.

She was born across from Igloodik when

they had their encampment in that area, and she recalls that collection efforts became rather a scary episode as the army clamoured for the material to continue WWII. There would be a plane that would land on occasion requesting bones, and the threat was their husbands could be killed.

The Inuit became quite fearful, and with that process, the two ministers went to their flocks to ask for more bones and anything with skeletal remains were requested so that it would help the Canadian effort. Qapik clearly recalls this episode, as that fall the dogs had died off due to disease and the carcasses stank and were full of maggots, but they dropped them off when delivering bones to the army.

I was quite ecstatic when Qapik was acknowledged at the ceremony, and further, her best friend Leetia Kayak also attended so it was very moving to see them, especially when they relayed the fear they had to live with, but continued to work.

To date, Qapik continues to be involved in her communities and I am always full of pride when I see her. I am very pleased to say this is her 99th year, and she is still able to be engaged in her community attending meetings. She also always attends to families that may have lost a loved one. I am very proud of you, Qapik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy

Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 740 – 5(2): Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects in Sanikiluaq

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My return to oral question was asked by Mr. Allan Rumbolt, MLA for Hudson Bay, asked of the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, No. 740 – 5(2), on February [18], 2020, and the subject was alternative and renewable energy projects in Sanikiluaq. The question was:

“Mr. Speaker, climate change and federal carbon tax have been a major issue of discussion in recent years. The federal announcement concerning the installation of the new district heating system in Sanikiluaq indicated that the new system will “help reduce the territory’s diesel fuel consumption and cut carbon emissions.” Can the minister provide an estimate as to the magnitude of the fuel savings and carbon emission reductions associated with this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.”

The response is:

When all district heating systems across the territory are working properly, they collectively save approximately 1,800,000 litres of fuel or approximately 546 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

An example of an average monthly savings for a community like Rankin Inlet where fuel saved was 6,184.56 litres and CO2 reductions of 2,309.24 tonnes, and as the members will notice

in the document, there’s a list of communities.

Every community has differing systems and heating needs, so drawing direct comparisons to Sanikiluaq is different. The district heating system in the Sanikiluaq community will need to be operational for at least one year before more concrete data can be provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Return to Oral Question 835 – 5(2): Income Assistance Reforms

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Iqaluit who have lost a loved one are in my thoughts and I hug you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I’m returning to oral question asked by Cathy Towtongie, MLA for Rankin Inlet, Question No. 835 – 5(2), on March 2, 2020, and the subject being income assistance reforms.

The question was:

Will the minister commit to revising the *Income Assistance Regulations* to ensure that income assistance clients will no longer have their winnings from bingos, such as \$40 winnings, or lotteries considered as income?

My response:

I responded that “I have already given direction to my staff to look at amending the legislation.” I would like to clarify

my response. The limit amounts currently in the Nunavut regulations need to be examined. This is what I have directed my staff to review.

The goal of income assistance is to assist citizens to become self-sufficient by being able to transition to employment. All income is considered in completing the monthly needs assessment. All Canadian jurisdictions have similar regulations and exemptions, with varying thresholds.

Uqaqtitsijii, my department staff are aware that amendments are required to the Nunavut regulations and already in the planning stages of planning proposed amendments to the current Nunavut *Income Assistance Regulations*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Oral Question 802 – 5(2) Qulliq Expenditures and Operations

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My return to oral question was asked by Ms. Pat Angnakak, MLA for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, asked of the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, No. 802 – 5(2), on February 25, 2020, and the subject is Qulliq expenditures and operations.

The first question was:

My first question is this: does the minister know what the current employee turnover rate is at the Qulliq

Energy Corporation and, if she does know, can she tell the House today how many employees have departed the corporation within the last 12 months?

My response:

In the last year 25 employees have departed from the Qulliq Energy Corporation's regular workforce. This consists of indeterminate and term positions from February 25, 2019 to February 25, 2020. The reasons are as follows:

Zero – Involuntary separation (terminations)
Two – Retirements
One – Death
One – Medical release
21 – Voluntary resignation

In 2017-18 the Qulliq Energy Corporation's annual turnover percentage was 16.67 percent, in 2018-19 this fell to 14.13 percent, and in 2019-2020 turnover percentage dropped to 13.37 percent based on the average filled headcount of 187 staff. Taken into context, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's efforts at hiring, retention, and employee engagement appear to be effective in reducing employee turnover.

The second question:

As the minister will recall, I asked her last year about the standing committee's recommendation that the QEC's corporate and human resource policies be made publicly available. In her formal return to my question, the minister indicated that these are only internally accessible within the corporation. Can the minister clearly explain this inconsistency, and will she

commit to making the QEC's corporate and human resource policies public?

My response:

The Qulliq Energy Corporation follows the majority of policies found in the Government of Nunavut's *Human Resources Manual*. The Qulliq Energy Corporation can provide a link on its website to the Government of Nunavut's *Human Resources Manual*. As the Qulliq Energy Corporation finishes reviewing its policies and develops new ones that meet the corporation's standards, they will be available on our website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Written Questions. I have no more names on list. Moving on. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Member Netser.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to recognize the students and faculty of the Social Worker Program with the Nunavut Arctic College, who are here in the Chambers today. If they can stand when I say their names, and my apologies if I don't pronounce it right:

Dorean Arloo from Arviat, welcome to the House.

>>Applause

Adrienne Tagoona from Baker Lake.

>>Applause

Pamela Arualak from Whale Cove.

>>Applause

Charlotte Kuksuk from Arviat.

>>Applause

Jenna Palituq from Clyde River.

>>Applause

Amanda Pallister from Iqaluit.

>>Applause

Benjamin Vera from Iqaluit.

>>Applause

The instructors are Shirley Watkins and Sheila Hodge-Higdon.

>>Applause

Also, Maureen Doherty, the Chair of the Health and Wellness program, welcome to the House.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. We are you proud of you, and though your work will be very hard, it will also be rewarding. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I usually don't take the time to recognize anyone in the House, but I would like to recognize my husband, Harry Towtongie's niece, Charlotte Kuksuk. I love you. Thank you very much for being here while you are going to school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I usually don't recognize visitors, but I would like to also recognize Jenna Pallituq from Clyde River. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are three people; two from Arviat and one from Whale Cove, and I am very pleased to recognize these students. You will be making a great contribution to the people of Nunavut. I am very proud of you, and once you complete your course, it is going to be hard, but I know that you will contribute greatly to Nunavut. Pamela Arualak, Dorean Arloo, and Charlotte Walaa Kuksuk, welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery and please feel free to come observe the proceedings any day. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. We will go back to the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Member Qamaniq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 871 – 5(2): Homeownership Programs for Elders and Seniors

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Tununiq and my colleagues. I will be speaking in English.

(interpretation ends) My questions are to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I recognize that the Nunavut Housing Corporation currently offers a number of homeownership programs that are targeted at elders and seniors. However, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's recent annual report for the past three fiscal years indicates that no applications under these programs were approved in respect to Pond Inlet.

Can the minister clarify if this is because nobody from the community has submitted applications or is it because the applications that were submitted did not meet the programs' criteria for approval? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also would like to thank the member. (interpretation ends) To that particular question, I really don't have the answer. One of the issues we have when our clients or homeowners apply for funding to renovate their homes is that we often don't have contractors within the communities and it's an issue bringing contractors to these communities to

work with homeowners who have applied for the funding.

For his question, I will have to get back to him as to why, and who applied as I don't have the level of detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Member Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for reviewing the question that I asked earlier.

I have recently been working to address a constituency issue involving an elder who is a homeowner. In this situation, the local housing authority performed emergency repairs on the elder's home to prevent it from freezing up in the winter. The elder later received a bill for the work.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current homeownership program for covering the cost of repairs does not clearly fit situations like this. As the minister will recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership program review report was tabled during the Legislative Assembly's fall sitting. Further reviews to the corporation's homeownership program have recently been announced.

Will this review aim to provide greater flexibility to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's programs for elders and seniors to address situations such as the one I just described? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Under the homeownership programs, we have an annual grant of \$3,000 towards our elders to have their furnaces repaired, doorknobs replaced, and things like that.

We will have to look into his questions as to why the elder was invoiced by the LHO. It's just a matter, I believe, of simple accounting that can be taken care of. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary question, Member Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response. (interpretation ends) As I noted earlier, I recognize that the Nunavut Housing Corporation currently offers a number of homeownership programs, and there does appear to be some overlap between them. Is the Nunavut Housing Corporation looking at consolidating its homeownership program and identifying ways of streamlining the application process for elders and seniors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, homeownership programs under the Nunavut Housing Corporation are currently being reviewed, and once the review is completed, we will give you details on where the changes are, and we will be streamlining whatever needs to be streamlined. Once we get that all done, we will make sure that all of the details are disclosed. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

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

Question 872 – 5(2): Driver Education

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and I will be returning to the topic of drivers' education.

As the minister is aware, the objective of the college is to prepare Nunavummiut for careers in the territory. Not all jobs do require a driver's licence, but having one is a common requirement for the type of jobs that can actually lift people out of poverty, such as construction, trades, security, and even the RCMP and Government of Nunavut jobs.

However, it is common for parents to teach children how to drive, but I understand that may be extremely difficult for the many households who do not own a vehicle. As Nunavut Arctic College plays an essential role in preparing Nunavummiut for careers in our territory, I would like to ask: does the minister recognize the lack of a driver's licence as a barrier to many who wish to enter the workforce? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Mr. Speaker, my belief is that a simple driver's licence should easily be accessible in our communities, and that is why we have a program within Arctic College where

our instructors from the Sanatuliqsarvik in Rankin Inlet go from community to community when there is a need and a list of people wanting to obtain their driver's licences. Yes, it is important that people have a driver's licence. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first brought up this issue, I believe it was last year, if not the year before, the minister's response was that Arctic College does provide a special classification of driver's licence for those who wish to operate heavy equipment or vehicles with air brakes.

My questions are specifically for general driver's licences, those that are required for a number of positions within the territory. I would just like to clarify: does the college currently offer driver's education for regular driver's licences? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that if you want to apply for a driver's licence like a class 5 driver's licence where you can operate a simple vehicle like a pickup truck, they can go to the hamlet of each community. I stand to be corrected, but we do not have programs for training people under that circumstance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Practically every community in Nunavut suffers with difficulty of achieving class 5 driver's licences. I can't understate how important it is for our government to step up and start providing training to help assist individuals with achieving their driver's licences.

Mr. Speaker, I brought this up before and I'm going to bring it up again. I'm going to continue to bring it up until the minister commits to expanding the offerings of the college to include driver's education with class 5 driver's licences. My question is: will the minister commit to doing so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, back when I was a youth, when we were told that having a driver's licence was a requirement, I went to the hamlet and got one. I still have one, and Motor Vehicles is responsible for licensing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, before we proceed, I would first like to thank you, and I am very pleased that we have a visitor here in the Legislative Assembly, and I would like to recognize the Hon. Dan Vandal, the Minister for Northern Affairs. Also, with him is the Hon. Dennis Patterson, our Senator for Nunavut. Please rise, both of you, and let us give them a hand. Welcome and welcome to the Nunavummiut also in the gallery.

Going back to the orders of the day. Oral

Questions. Member for Netsilik.
Member Qirngnuq.

Question 873 – 5(2): Petroleum Products

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Netsilik and my colleagues and those visiting in gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I will try to keep my comments and questions very clear. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, we exchanged correspondence earlier this year concerning two separate incidents that took place at the Kugaaruk and Taloyoak airports in recent months. These incidents involved equipment malfunctions with the refueling systems.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciated the minister's prompt reply to my correspondence and for the actions taken by the government to address the equipment malfunctions. I also appreciated the detailed technical information that the minister provided concerning planned repairs and upgrades at both airports.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that my office and the municipalities in both communities are kept updated on an ongoing basis with respect to the status of these repairs and upgrades?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning,

fellow residents of Nunavut.

I thank my colleague for asking that question. The tank farm at that community had problems. It had malfunctions due to the extreme cold temperatures and at the tank farm some of the equipment froze. All of it has been fixed. I wrote to the member with an update and to inform him that we intend to make policies to help us do that kind of work in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that clear response. (interpretation ends) As the minister is fully aware, our extreme winter conditions in Nunavut pose challenges to fuel delivery.

Information published by the Department of Community and Government Services indicates that extreme cold temperatures call for enhanced petroleum specifications in order to maintain optimum engine performance. "As a member of the Canadian General Standards Board, the Petroleum Products Division represents Nunavut's interest in the development of petroleum standards within the remote arctic region."

Can the minister update the House on what specific initiatives are currently being worked on between the two organizations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking those questions. In Nunavut, whenever we purchase fuel, it is true that we try to get the highest octane fuel that will not freeze as fast as other fuels because we live in the arctic. There is an additive put in the fuel, and we check to make sure that the fuel can perform under the extreme temperatures.

I want to let my colleagues know that we have already purchased the fuel that we are using this winter or this coming fall and winter. We make sure that the fuel we buy has proper additives and we buy it before June. After June the fuel available out there doesn't have any antifreeze additives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is likely aware, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation recently issued a request for proposal for the operation and maintenance of the Taloyoak and Kugaaruk airports.

Given the importance of refuelling operations at our airports, can the minister clarify what role his department will play in the evaluation process for this request for proposal? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When

infrastructure requests are being done, our officials work on that with the Department of Community and Government Services.

When the Department of Economic Development and Transportation wants to build a terminal or something, then our staff are involved in the review to make sure that everything that's going to be needed in that terminal is considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 874 – 5(2): Elder Designated Housing

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my questions, I would want to say I love my wife. She just lost her younger sister and her mother is in the hospital right now. They are going through very difficult times and I have her father in my thoughts and I have you in my thoughts. I say “good morning” to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation. We stated here during our sitting that we want to better represent our elders and remember them.

Our elders are provided homes that are attached together in the communities, and there are concerns in one of my constituencies regarding elder homes. At our fall session, Mr. Speaker, I queried the minister about the elder homes occupied by our elders are not designed for aging citizens. Especially when

elders become enfeebled and the way the units are constructed don't seem to take that into consideration.

It was a concern expressed by Clyde River especially related to their local elder home and just from the outside, it seems difficult for elders with the loss of motion, and it requires renovations, especially since the steps are quite long, and there isn't an assistant to do repairs.

I had asked about this matter to the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation previously about possible changes, so I ask again: has anything been undertaken to meet this concern? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we take pride in our elders and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, when it is allocated a unit to a community; they consult the LHO on the unit that will be specific to the elders.

Nonetheless, with respect to my colleague's question on that unit, Mr. Speaker, I haven't had the chance to determine that, and I will ask my deputy minister to report on the status of that unit queried about last fall, as I haven't received a briefing on it, but, Mr. Speaker, I can state that this will be a priority, and dealt with on an urgent basis to provide an answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the commitment to start work and we anticipate it in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is not just the work that needs to be done. Furthermore, there should be housing maintainer as our elders who occupy these multiplexes have to clean and repair their unit, including their units.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify whether these units can be designated an assistant to deal with the multiplex and to ensure that some type of homecare is provided for the attached units they occupy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated earlier, the Nunavut Housing Corporation builds homes for elders. The people that help the elders are under the Department of Health, and they are called homecare workers. They don't work for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Maybe the member can ask the Minister of Health about that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now the minister explained earlier that work will commence on the elder homes soon. Yes, they are in diligent need of improvements and you can even classify as urgent.

Can the minister clarify that the work he referenced starting this upcoming summer will be dealt with? The units have long stairways that upon a glance, an elder would have a hard time navigating them. This just exemplifies the need for work now. Can the minister commit to having the work done this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I commit.

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

Question 875 – 5(2): Memorandum of Understanding with Agnico Eagle Mines

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

I want to follow up on the minister's statement that he made yesterday concerning the government's memorandum of understanding with Agnico Eagle Mines. I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the company for its recent community investments in the Kivalliq region, for different organizations.

However, one of the issues that the minister referred to in his statement concerned "clean energy initiatives." Can the minister provide the Legislative Assembly with additional detail

concerning what specific initiatives are being worked on, and can he clarify how the pending ban on the use of heavy fuel oil in arctic waters will impact the company's annual marine resupply activities in the region? Will it affect shipping routes used by the mining companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. In September 2017 I signed a memorandum of understanding with Agnico Eagle Mines. We have since had meetings with them and they plan to use cleaner fuel. They have reported back to us of their plans to use wind power generation and who they will be working with. They keep restating at the meetings that they would like an Inuit owned company to construct it, to answer your first question.

On your second question on heavy fuel oil, it will impact all marine ships used in the Arctic and it will affect the mines also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions during our recent fall sitting about the memorandum of understanding and the subcommittee on housing that has been established between the Government of Nunavut and Agnico Eagle.

At that time he could not provide any details on its work. Can he update the House today on what specific initiatives the housing subcommittee is currently working on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further, Mr. Speaker, at this time due to its incompleteness, I cannot provide a final report yet. Our officials are in ongoing discussions with Agnico Eagle, and housing is one of the issues we continue to discuss. The need to devise ideas and ways they can provide assistance or if they won't provide any assistance, this process hasn't been completed yet with written details, but this is a critical issue for us and they are aware of that. We both are aware of this fact.

We have previously stated that whoever is capable of providing assistance irrespective of their placement should help us, and even the Minister for the Nunavut Housing Corporation has requested assistance from different organizations to finance the construction of new housing. The mine is using the agreement we provided and we have also they have commenced a study into that.

To date a completed agreement isn't available, so I am unable to provide a report on this today on the issues we have already made agreement on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot tell you about a final decision yet on the MOU agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current dispute in British Columbia about pipeline construction reminds us that issues concerning natural resource extraction can be complex. In his statement to the House of yesterday, the minister made reference to (interpretation) “social licence for mining projects.” (interpretation) Can he clarify and expand on this statement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mining companies just want to mine, and they could do that one and only thing, they would, but they also understand that we experience hardship in Nunavut. When their mine is situated in a hard place, they have to be provided with assistance, and that is understood. While we were in Ottawa, they stated that would provide assistance through \$5 million that has been put aside. That is money from the mining company for social issues.

On your comment, they have provided a lot of money to Kivalliq communities and that is why I mentioned (interpretation ends) “social licence.” (interpretation) To date they have provided \$5 million for a (interpretation ends) university (interpretation) that we are making plans for and they have already put money aside for that. They are not strictly after profits. They have a willingness to help and that is what I was saying about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 876 – 5(2): Government Contracts with Airlines

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome Senator and minister.

My questions are for the Minister Economic Development and Transportation and they are concerning... (interpretation ends) My question is on the topic of subsidization of economy class air travel.

Mr. Speaker, I will again quote from the department’s own business plan. “By including the cost of scheduled air service available to the public (such as Economy Fares) in the procurement evaluation criteria, a significant reduction in the cost of air travel has been realized for much of Nunavut’s traveling public.”

Mr. Speaker, I will say again that it appears to me that this government is now subsidizing the cost of certain types of airline travel for the general public. Can the minister if this is the case, and can he provide any kind of estimate today as to the magnitude of the subsidy? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before the request for proposal on medical and duty travel was taking place, our government issued a RFP which was done by the Lufthansa, (interpretation) I can’t pronounce it, (interpretation ends) report, which

showed that our previous contract, which was medical travel and duty travel, was affecting public air, so through that report we issued this new RFP, which we tried to protect the economy for public air travel.

What we were doing and what we are doing is using our purchasing power to ensure that Nunavummiut don't get impacted by the government's own contracts. I cannot give any exact dollar figures and I cannot call this a subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a saying in English that if it walks like a bird, sounds like a bird, and flies like a bird, then it's a bird.

(interpretation ends) The minister just mentioned using the government's purchasing power with regard to economy class tickets. Mr. Speaker, it certainly appears to me that this is indeed a subsidy. I'll ask the minister again: can he give any estimate today as to the magnitude of the subsidy, which I should point out appears to flow to people who have enough money to buy tickets, which leaves out a huge chunk of the population who are on income assistance? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the magnitude in terms of what the dollar figures are. At this point our government, through

Community and Government Services, is hiring a contract manager to oversee this new contract, which will use this data to help us in terms of how well this contract is doing.

Passenger travel is part of Nunavummiut. It doesn't matter who. It's not for people who can afford it or not; it's for all Nunavummiut. When anybody needs to travel, these are rates that are being used for Nunavummiut. I personally was very proud that our government stepped in and helped Nunavummiut in ensuring that the fares that Nunavummiut have to pay should be lower and it was at the cost of our government to ensure that the medical travel and duty travel does not negatively impact Nunavummiut. It was through this contract that allowed us to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm certainly not going to make an argument in favour of higher airplane prices, but every discussion we have in this House is in the context of limited budgets, Mr. Speaker. Budgets go towards things like housing, health care, and education. Those are called public goods, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure when plane tickets from Iqaluit to Ottawa got added to the list of public goods for this territory, Mr. Speaker.

My final question for the minister is, we recently exchanged correspondence regarding this new contract and there is an independent advisory board that is being set up to monitor the merged

airline. Can the minister yet tell the House who sits on the independent advisory board? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) The names are here, but an official from the Government of Nunavut, Jimi Onalik, Assistant Deputy Minister, represents us on the board. Federal government representatives were appointed by the federal minister and they are holding meetings now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 877 – 5(2): Status of Capital Planning for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq and to the people of Nunavut.

My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the issue of capital planning projects that are on the go for my community of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, his department recently made publicly available a number of documents concerning his capital planning process. It is my understanding that these items were used at the recent Northern Lights conference in Ottawa.

One of the documents indicated that the Department of Community and Government Services is currently in the

planning phase for three new hamlet offices to be constructed in the communities of Rankin Inlet, Kimmirut and Sanikiluaq.

As the minister knows, I have raised concerns regarding the lack of office space in Sanikiluaq for some time and I know that the current municipal offices are overcrowded. I am looking forward to this project moving forward.

Can the minister provide a clearer timeline for when this project will be coming forward for funding approval? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Sanikiluaq for his question. I understand his concern. We know about the situation with the hamlet office. As you know, there is a process that needs to be followed to plan for what type of building is required for hamlets. We need to have a business case to follow. We're aiming for March to finalize that business case. Once it's finalized, I'll bring it forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The same planning document confirms that two other projects for Sanikiluaq are also in the planning phase; a new sewage lagoon and a new water treatment plant. As the minister also knows, these are

two priority projects for the community that I have also been advocating for. I will again ask if the minister can provide more clear timelines for when these projects will be moving forward to the construction stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As for the water treatment plant, it is moving along. At this time what the plan will look like is in that stage and requests for proposals will go out around June 2020 and we will go through that process first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to my previous question was an update on the sewage lagoon that has had funding approval, I think, for probably eight or nine years now and it still doesn't seem to be making much headway.

Mr. Speaker, again the same planning document also confirms that the minister's department plans to issue a request for proposals during the spring of this year for solid waste facilities in seven communities, including Sanikiluaq. I will again note that this is a much-needed initiative that I have been pushing for.

Can the minister clarify if his department will be issuing one request for proposals for all seven communities or will he be issuing separate requests for proposals

for each project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for missing the second part of his second his question. I will get to it now.

Once these projects in the solid waste management request for proposals have completed planning and the planning studies are accepted by the municipality and our department, it will be determined then how to proceed with the design. Whether by grouping all of the communities together and bringing one planning and design phase for them all, or if they will be done individually, or clumping two or three at a time, we will make that distinction once we go through that step, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 878 – 5(2): Public and Staff Housing Construction

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I say "good morning" to the people of Pangnirtung.

This morning I would like to direct my question to Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation. He may need to consult with the Minister of Human Resources on his response. It is not a new question.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, a

longstanding issue of concern in Pangnirtung has been the issue of government staff housing units that have remained vacant for years. It is my understanding that there are presently a number of units that are vacant. There are currently 13 units that are vacant and there are units that need to be renovated. Staff housing construction indicates that five new staff housing units will be constructed in the community.

My first question is: can the minister clearly indicate who those five staff housing units will be for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation does construct staff housing units as we are informed of the requirement and need for staff housing construction. As for the newly constructed units, the Department of Human Resources identifies who will be receiving them. We just construct them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will be aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2019-22 business plan indicated that it would "repair and transfer four off-line staff housing units in Pangnirtung to public housing stock."

Mr. Speaker, the local housing association welcomed that decision as

every new unit counts when it comes to addressing the community's shortage of public housing units. Will the Minister of Housing commit to reviewing Pangnirtung's current situation with the goal of identifying additional vacant housing units that could be transferred to the local housing association to use for public housing? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My previous answer was that the Nunavut Housing Corporation constructs staff housing where a community is identified and then when we complete the construction, it is turned over to the HR division where they allocate who is going to be moved to staff housing.

As for the LHOs, the local housing authorities or organizations, we let them decide who is going to be allocated to these units. The ones that are given over to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we leave that decision to the local housing organizations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question wasn't answered. To state these facts as the government already has plans in the works of which infrastructure goes to which community, but just glancing at the Pangnirtung GN housing units, many sit vacant.

We haven't forgotten that the government kindly provided empty units through the local housing authority. We recognize that, but there are still 112 people on the waiting list in Pangnirtung and who have applied for housing, but now we see the government is starting to construct more units for staff housing that would house the employees. Are you looking at the empty units that can fill that need?

(interpretation ends) There's a lack of work in this where in turn there has to be a process to ensure all community needs are met. My last question is: is the government leaning towards building more staff housing units to accommodate local employees to transfer into staff housing and moving away from public housing?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): As I stated, Mr. Speaker, the government's Department of Human Resources identifies a community requiring (interpretation ends) staff housing (interpretation) and the Nunavut Housing Corporation proceeds on the construction of the units. Once the units are completed, they are handed to the Department of Human Resources. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is no longer assigned with allocating units as to which staff member may occupy the unit. We are no longer in that business, which I hope she understands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would just like to remind the members to refrain from pointing at their colleagues,

as it is against our rules.

>> *Applause*

Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

Question 879 – 5(2): Eye Team Visits

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, ministers, and the community of Gjoa Haven.

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

Mr. Speaker, a concern has been raised in my constituency about the short length of time that is allocated for the eye team visits to Gjoa Haven. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain how his department determines the length of time allocated for eye team visits to any communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have contracts with service providers to provide eye care across the territory and the majority of times it's based on the population of the community, but waitlists are also taken into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is clear that the eye team visits to Gjoa Haven are not long enough because a number of people who need an

appointment are not able to get one before the eye team leaves.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm whether his department keeps track of those individuals who were unable to get an appointment with the eye team when it visited the community and can he explain what efforts are made to ensure that those individuals do get to see the eye team at the earliest next opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's a common practice and if the member has any specific concerns, I would be more than happy to discuss them with the member and look into it further, but that is a common practice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Member Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It also seems to be a common practice when the eye teams are always in a rush to get out of the community.

I am sure the minister will agree that having access to vision care is an important aspect of health and wellbeing.

My last question would be a "yes" answer.

>> *Laughter*

Will the minister commit to reviewing the eye team contract and increasing the number of days that the eye team visits

the community of Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will say "yes."

>> *Laughter*

I will speak to my officials to make sure we are meeting the needs of the community and to identify ways that we can improve the service delivery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 880 – 5(2): Housing Options for Seniors

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister is aware, one of the NHC's homeownership programs is the Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Options Program.

The stated purpose of this program is to assist elders and seniors who are homeowners, but who can no longer "meet the obligations and responsibilities that come with homeownership."

Under this program, the NHC may purchase the elder's home and give the elder priority access to public housing.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing

Corporation's recent annual reports for the past three fiscal years indicate that no applications under this program were approved in any of Nunavut's communities.

Can the minister clarify if this is because nobody submitted applications, or is it because the applications that were submitted did not meet the program's criteria for approval? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. We have a program within the Nunavut Housing Corporation where an elder or person that owns a home and can no longer maintain his or her home, we can buy the home and when we do that, we allow them to live in that particular home they are giving up to the corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of at least one elder in my community who has expressed interest in applying for the program. However, the specific situation is complicated, and the elder will certainly require assistance in going through the application process. Can the minister confirm if local housing organizations and government liaison officers are able to assist people with the NHC's application processes? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do not have any individuals within communities that can address this issue, but we do have MLAs representing them in the House and we can certainly work with their constituents if and when they wish to release their house to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. That is where our MLAs come into play. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. As I noted earlier, no applications under this program have been approved during the last three fiscal years. It is clear to me that there needs to be more awareness of the program amongst its target group, who are elders and disabled persons. Will the minister commit to raising this issue with his appropriate cabinet colleagues? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) What I can commit to do is work with the regular MLAs in terms of giving out information to their constituents that have their own homes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 881 – 5(2): Pandemic Preparedness

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

Mr. Speaker, the minister has already answered a number of questions about how his department is addressing the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. Nunavut is not new to such issues. In recent years we have faced similar threats from influenza, H1N1, and SARS.

Can the minister update this House on what process is in place to collect data on communicable diseases in Nunavut and explain how that information is used to assess and develop a plan to contain the spread of disease across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking about communicable diseases, there are a number of diseases or medical issues that are deemed reportable. They would be reported to our chief public health officer and there the information would be used to address any further needs or practices, update any protocols to make sure that our residents are being looked after. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that Canada has a pandemic preparedness plan, but I am

not confident that it fully addresses the unique circumstances that we have here in Nunavut. Our primary connection with the outside world is by air. With so many people travelling to Nunavut from other parts of Canada and elsewhere, this means that the opportunity for a virus to catch hold, spread, and infect a number of Nunavummiut is just a plane ride away, with the community of Iqaluit often being the first stop.

Can the minister clarify whether or not Nunavut has its own pandemic preparedness plan that specifically takes into account our unique circumstances, the operations of our health facilities, and our reliance on medevacs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do. Back when H1N1 was running through internationally but specifically in Canada, there were a number of lessons learned and over the years, protocols have been developed and plans have been made. This is highlighted now with the coronavirus that's going on right now with COVID-19. There are continual plans and measures that are taken into consideration. That's one of the benefits of our health care professionals that live here in Nunavut that know the territory that can plan for these types of things with that Nunavut tint. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think one of the things that's a concern is the government may have all these plans, but I don't know well Nunavummiut are aware of what plans are in place for their safety, and perhaps that's something that the minister can address.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that Nunavut's health system would struggle greatly to meet the demand if a significant number of patients suddenly needed care and we required additional medical supplies or lifesaving equipment. An outbreak could also have an impact on municipal services like water delivery and garbage collection. The media has reported on hospitals in the south preparing for a potential influx of patients and our federal health minister has even advised people to stockpile food and medicine in their homes. I believe that part of the solution to any viral threat is to be prepared.

Can the minister confirm that there is a strategy currently in place to work with Ottawa and the City of Iqaluit to ensure that adequate health supplies, medical equipment, and municipal services will be available to residents should we face the outbreak of a pandemic disease? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to assure all members of the public that each department has an emergency management plan. Mr. Speaker, there are different examples and tests of the system that happen on a regular basis. As a coordinated effort with the

Department of Health, we do have the health emergency management program, but it is done in conjunction with every department across the territory. There are plans with every one of the departments to coordinate if something were to happen.

I want to really take this time to assure all people who are listening that, like I mentioned the other day, you plan for the worst and hope for the best. There are plans in place. A recent example is the ransomware that occurred. I know it's not a health issue, but it showed the effectiveness of the emergency planning that this government takes very seriously. There are challenges with that and there were lessons learned, again, going forward, but at the end of the day, service was still provided to Nunavummiut. We found a way to make sure that service was provided.

I want to assure all Members of this House and of the public that there are plans that are out there and we have taken this very seriously, and there are a lot of very professional people who have planned for all contingencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Member Kaernerck.

Motion 074 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that the time allotted for question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and question period has been extended by another 30 minutes.

Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Question 882 – 5(2): Housing Renovation Options

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

I will direct my question this morning to the minister we have been waiting to ask questions to, the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

As you indicated in your minister's statement, there's a renovation project in Rankin Inlet. Are you going to be setting up renovation projects in other communities like the communities that I represent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for the question. Mr. Speaker, we have a renovation project in Rankin Inlet where a house was donated. It was fire damaged and that house was given to Nunavut Arctic College. We were very proud of this program. It takes quite a bit to plan such a project and we hope to see more renovation projects happening around Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first

supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are quite a few empty units in the communities that I represent. I would like to thank you, and for the help of Family Services, that you started this renovation project. How much did the renovation project cost in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how much the renovation project cost. It was the first project and was finally completed in January. We will find out exactly how much the project cost and I will get the information to you once we have it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will expect to hear that number. I would like the minister to explain to local housing organizations that this project that started in Rankin Inlet should be applied everywhere in Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Can the minister commit to expanding this program beyond Rankin Inlet, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot commit to expanding throughout all of Nunavut, but we hope to keep this program going because it

takes a lot planning and processing for all stuff that the Nunavut Arctic College works tirelessly into making the one in Rankin Inlet a big success. I think it was a great success. We trained some people and now they are really excited about getting into the workforce. Certainly we will look at other communities in terms of how we can make this program work throughout Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 883 – 5(2): Protecting Nunavut from Sex Offenders

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice. Again, it concerns the need to protect our children in our communities from sex offenders.

I want to start by clearly and publicly acknowledging that I fully appreciate that the minister is personally committed to the wellbeing of our children, as I am. However, I also want to clearly state that I believe that much more can be done by our government on this issue, which is why I am continuing to raise concerns in this House.

As the minister is aware, the Parliament of Canada passed the *High Risk Child Sex Offender Database Act* in the year 2015. The stated purpose of this legislation is to “Establish a publicly accessible database that contains information with respect to persons who are found guilty of sexual offences against children and who pose a high risk of committing crimes of a sexual nature.” However, this federal law has

not yet been brought to force.

Mr. Speaker, last fall the Government of Nunavut had gone on record as stating that it has not yet developed a formal position on the issue of whether or not the law should be brought into force. I would like to give the minister an opportunity today to update the Assembly on the government’s position on this issue and commit to formally requesting her federal counterpart to bring the law into force. Will the minister commit to doing so, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and members in the House today.

Mr. Speaker, the *Sex Offender Information Registry Act* sets out certain criteria regarding the release of information registered under the Act. The High-Risk Child Sexual Offenders Act is a complicated piece of legislation that takes into account consideration of the offences, the safety of the victims and their communities, as well as the privacy rights of all people. As the federal government is responsible for criminal law in Canada, this is not a territorial matter.

As to your question regarding a commitment from myself as minister to take into consideration the Act, I cannot commit, but I will work with my federal counterparts and have the discussion with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Your first supplementary, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response, minister. I wish you the best of luck in those discussions.

As the minister is aware, the RCMP periodically issues public notifications when high-risk offenders are being released from custody. The purpose of these notifications is to provide the public with necessary information concerning the potential risks to their safety.

Mr. Speaker, it appears through my own research that every other jurisdiction in Canada, including our sister territories, the RCMP has made public statements warning communities upon the release of high-risk sex offenders, including those that are being released in small, remote, isolated communities, such as Whati, Northwest Territories, with a population of 470, and Tulita with a population of 477 people. However, it appears that these notifications are rarely, if ever, issued in Nunavut.

Can the minister clearly explain the extent to which her department is involved in deciding when such public notifications are to be issued, and can she clearly indicate whether or not she has the authority to issue formal directions to the RCMP in this area?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) To your second question regarding

whether or not the Minister of Justice has authority to release that information, the Minister of Justice does not have the authority to release statistical information on all sex crimes and child sex crimes as the criminal offences fall under federal jurisdiction.

Regarding the RCMP, the *Sex Offender Information Registry Act* sets out criteria, like I stated, to release of information registered under the Act and due to disclosure prohibitions in section 16(4) of the *Sex Offender Information Registry Act* and the risk of identifying registered sex offenders, the RCMP can't disclose the number of sex offenders in any particular community.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for providing that additional information, but it wasn't exactly a response to my question. My question was to explain the extent to which our Department of Justice is involved in deciding when such public notifications are issued and whether or not our Minister of Justice has the authority to give formal directions to the RCMP to actually do so.

For my final question, it boggles my mind why is it that in Nunavut alone, the RCMP find it is more imperative to protect the privacy of the registered offenders on these lists, only in Nunavut. Well, in the Northwest Territories and Yukon they do not have the same concern for the privacy of those registered sexual offenders. Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. As I stated, the Minister of Justice does not have authority to approach the RCMP and ask them to release this information, but I can find out further as to why Nunavut doesn't do that and I take that and I'll hopefully have more information for the member in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 884 – 5(2): Compensation for Educators

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. My question is for the Minister of Education.

In 2018 the government signed a collective agreement in March with the Nunavut Teachers Association. This agreement will expire in June 2021. Now, as we are all aware in Nunavut, we have a lack of teachers and problems with recruiting and retaining teachers.

Can the minister explain what plans or preparations are underway or being considered to try to recruit and retain teachers for Nunavut, to make sure that the teachers want to stay in Nunavut longer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question, Member for Pangnirtung. Mr. Speaker, the teacher shortage is not just happening in Nunavut; it's happening in other jurisdictions. We have estimated that we need more than 450 teachers that can speak Inuktitut.

We are making a 10-year strategy to make sure that the teachers we have are kept. We have to look into why teachers want to leave and why they end up not wanting to remain as teachers. We are studying that. The 10-year strategy will be set up, for example, students coming out of Nunavut Arctic College becoming teachers, to see how we can keep them in our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) One of my constituents was a long-time government employee and with good pay and benefits. She decided to join the teaching profession, graduated from the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, and got a teaching position but now struggling financially.

My first question was the collective agreement with the Nunavut Teachers Association was signed in March 2018 and this agreement will expire in 2021. What is the department doing to ensure that teachers get better benefits, or are there any plans to ensure that there is some agreement in plans to ensure that

teachers stay and retain employment within teaching positions?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. The Nunavut Teachers Association Collective Agreement is still going to be good for another year. We are bound to it. We were able to increase the funding for language teachers, so we were able to provide a raise for them, bringing them on par with other teachers.

However, when the collective agreement is being negotiated, I am not really able to say what it will include, but we have been discussing different considerations to see if we can find other ways ensure that our teachers stay as teachers. That is how we have been thinking. We want to work with the teachers and the Nunavut Teachers Association, other groups, as well as the local district education authorities because they make recommendations to us too. I can't say what will be included in that collective agreement yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my last question, he mentioned (interpretation ends) teachers' pay and benefits that the department can offer to teachers to retain them. Has there been any discussion on what kinds of benefits could be provided by the Government of Nunavut and the Department of Education? Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Pangnirtung for the question. I don't know the exact details of the benefits, but I can say that the issue of pay will definitely be discussed, amongst other issues. We are aware that many communities suffer from a housing shortage, and it is often discussed that teachers want their jobs to come with housing. With the lack of housing and how it affects other areas, I cannot just state whether that will be part of the collective agreement in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 885 – 5(2): Plans for Kugluktuk's High School

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

The high school in Kugluktuk is long overdue for an upgrade and an expansion or possibly even a replacement. Can the minister provide an update on his department's most recent assessment of the condition of the Kugluktuk High School and its current utilization rate?
Koana, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for her questions. For 2018-19, the utilization rate for Kugluktuk High School was at 119 percent. The capacity is at 203 and the enrolment was at 242. With that, I want to add on to that Jimmy Hikok Ilihakvik, the elementary school grade level is at a 67 percent utilization rate. It has a capacity of 249 and the enrollment was at 168. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague from Netsilik described so well earlier in the sitting, having a safe and comfortable environment is so important for our children to be able to learn effectively. We have had whole grades moved to another school and then back again, and children learning in spaces that were not intended as classrooms.

Can the minister confirm that the conditions at both of Kugluktuk's schools will be fully taken into consideration when addressing the need to update Kugluktuk's high school?
Koana, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for her question. We have a prioritized list for future consideration on our capital needs across the territory, and Kugluktuk was one of them to do an addition. We always look at the existing facilities and check the condition around how well they are maintained and whether or not

health and safety aspects of the school need to be addressed. Those are always taken into account when we do our capital planning and needs assessment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I have raised this issue a number of times in this House and it is not clear to me why the Department of Education is not addressing the very obvious need to update the school space situation in Kugluktuk. Will the minister commit to bringing forward a Kugluktuk High School project in the government's next capital plan? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With our preplanning projects on the go, and again, the vast needs of either expansion, renovation, or building new schools in the territory, we look at the entire territory as a whole, and then we look at the different aspects and factors that need to be considered; the population of the school, the condition, and of course, our financial limitations because we don't have all the funds. If we could fund every single proposal or needs of the schools in our territory, it would be properly triple, if not quadruple that, I believe. It is quite a significant amount of funds that we would need. We do try to do the best we can with our limited financial resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Niaqunnguu, Member Angnakak.

Question 886 – 5(2): Support for Hunters and Trappers Organizations

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

Nunavut's hunters and trappers organizations play a very important role in our territory's approach to wildlife co-management. As the minister is aware, schedule A-2 of the Department of Environment's Support for Harvesters and Wildlife Co-management Policy describes a number of matters related to HTOs, including the department's funding formula.

Can the minister indicate when the funding formula will next be reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't fund the HTOs directly. We give the funding source through the Nunavut secretariat and from there it's disbursed to the HTOs. That's one way we fund them, but we do work with them for special projects from time to time if need be, and we have no plans to review the funding formula at the current time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is well aware, the government provides support to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and this allows for our territory's mayors and SAOs to meet together on an annual basis to share concerns, exchange ideas, learn about best practices, and pass formal resolutions. It also allows for the government to meet with them as a group in order to explain new initiatives. Will the minister commit to providing the same support in order to enable HTO chairs and senior staff to hold a similar annual meeting to that which is presently held by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently we're not looking at that model, but we have a model where if the HTOs have concerns, they're brought to the regional wildlife boards and it's brought to the NWMB and if need be, then they have a hearing. Some of the examples we could have is the caribou management plan we had for Baffin Island, the Nunavut Polar Bear Management Plan, and in those cases HTO members are brought in and they're dealing with a specific concern on a specific management matter. The system works very well in my opinion. In the government's opinion, it's a system we've had for a long time and it works very well where the grassroots people pass their concerns on and those concerns are passed on to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and to the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Your second and final supplementary, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister describe what specific wildlife co-management initiatives his department plans to undertake with the Iqaluit HTO during the upcoming 2020-21 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have no planned initiatives with the Iqaluit HTO, but if they have any concerns, we listen to all the concerns from all the HTOs in Nunavut. Like I stated earlier, most of them are dealt with through their regional wildlife boards and then onto the NWMB or onto Environment, but currently we have no projects or concerns in mind with the local HTO here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 887 – 5(2): Scheduling and Airline Routes

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the airline scheduling especially after the merger of the two airlines, has created more problems especially when it comes to medical services. Also, some patients are required to send out blood samples for

testing in the southern hospitals but we are seeing more cases of late blood samples even when it is sent out on an emergency basis.

This is becoming problematic, and I wonder if you, Mr. Speaker...I apologize. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify whether improvements on how changes have been enacted to resolve this concern related to airline scheduling to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would gladly prefer if you could answer that question instead of me.

>>*Laughter*

Indeed, yes, the merger started in January here in the Baffin region, and since that time, with the new schedules operating, we are starting to see areas that may require massaging. At this time, they have not done any scheduling changes.

However, I have had an opportunity to meet the President of Canadian North, Johnny Atami, and we discussed the challenges to date as we maintain dialogue on the concerns he states he will look into. The issue you brought up was included in previous discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now this is becoming a serious concern as this isn't the only disadvantage we have seen. The biggest problem now, in light of the expensive costs of purchasing a ticket, are potential passengers who wish to take a quick trip now and have to route through Iqaluit.

The previous schedule allowed people to jump between communities, so I wonder: can the minister identify when the next scheduled date of discussions are with the airline managers, and if he can identify the interim periods between these meetings with the airlines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have exact dates. However, when we are able to meet, I am able to meet with them, particularly the Canadian North officials when we have different concerns that arise. The last one was in Ottawa where I met them at the Northern Lights Conference. He was aware of the three communities Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, and Hall Beach. For the Hall Beach route to Resolute Bay, he was aware of that and those were the ones that I was talking to him about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please be aware that the time for question period has expired. Item 7. Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. (interpretation) Item 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and

Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Apologies. Ms. Sheutiapik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 271 – 5(2): Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council Annual Report 2018-2019

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council's 2018-19 annual report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Tabled Document 272 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation's Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activity 2018-2019

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Contracting Procurement and Leasing Activity for the Fiscal Year 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to clarify that I do recognize the Minister responsible for Nunavut Status of Women. I just wanted to clarify that.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Minister Sheutiapik.

I'll continue. (interpretation ends)
 Notices of Motions. (interpretation) Item
 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of
 Motions for First Reading of Bills.

(interpretation) Before we proceed
 further, my colleagues, (interpretation
 ends) at this point, due to the important
 motion before the House and to allow
 for timely debate, we will be breaking
 for lunch and report back at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>House recessed at 11:36 and resumed
 at 13:31

Speaker (interpretation): Good day.
 Let's go back to the orders of the day.
 Item 16. Motions. (interpretation ends)
 Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms.
 Sheutiapik.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 073 – 5(2): Support for a Violence-free Nunavut

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Mr. Speaker, a very
 good afternoon. I also thank the visitors
 who have returned from this morning.

(interpretation ends) My motion is to
 support for a violence-free Nunavut.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of
 Nunavut unanimously supported a
 motion in 2005 that affirmed the right of
 all people to live free from physical,
 sexual or mental abuse and violence;

>>Applause

AND WHEREAS the motion called on
 all elected leaders in Nunavut to serve as

positive role models and to oppose abuse
 and violence in all of its forms;

>>Applause

AND WHEREAS the *Family Abuse
 Intervention Act* was passed by the
 Legislative Assembly in 2006;

>>Applause

AND WHEREAS the [Ilagiitsiarniq]
 Family Violence Prevention Framework
 for Action was tabled in the Legislative
 Assembly on March 19, 2013;

AND WHEREAS the Office of the
 Chief Coroner of Nunavut's
 recommendations to prevent domestic
 violence related deaths was tabled in the
 Legislative Assembly on June 7, 2018;

AND WHEREAS the Government of
 Nunavut continues to work with
 partners, including the Qullit Status of
 Women Council, to address the
 unacceptably high levels of abuse and
 violence in our society;

AND WHEREAS the Final Report of
 the National Inquiry into Missing and
 Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
 called upon all governments to work
 with Inuit to provide public awareness
 and education to combat the
 normalization of domestic violence and
 sexualized violence against Inuit
 women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA
 people, and the acronym stands for two
 spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual,
 transgender, queer, questioning, intersex,
 and asexual and these are lists of how an
 individual identifies themselves; to
 educate men and boys about the
 unacceptability of violence against Inuit
 women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA

people; and to raise awareness and education about the human rights and indigenous rights of Inuit.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member of Iqaluit-Manirajak, that the Legislative Assembly affirms its support for ongoing actions and measures to promote a violence-free Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to deal with such a subject, but we have to practise it and put the awareness out there, and we have to remember that we are elected leaders and we have to make these types of announcements, not only for a particular year but every day. Nunavut has been affected by violence. We stood up together as a unity to support a violence-free Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) As leaders in this House and every day, sometimes we acknowledge challenges in our territory, but there's a point in time where we have to stand united and that gives people hope. This kind of messaging gives people hope that we care as leaders foremost.

I didn't have any notes prepared because this is dear to me and I hope it's dear to everybody to send a message that we want a violence-free Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, on that note, a reminder that March 8 marks International Women's Day. This annual event is an opportunity to honour the cultural, social, political and economic achievements of women in Nunavut. The theme of this year's International Women's Day is "Each for Equal." The theme calls on all of us to challenge gender stereotypes, improve situations for women and girls, and to celebrate women's achievements. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the seconder of the motion, Mr. Lightstone, wish to speak? Please proceed, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the second time today, thank you, Minister Sheutiapik, as well as our government, our Premier and cabinet, and members here today. Thank you for moving this motion and I am honoured to second it.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in support of this motion, the intent of which is to reaffirm the Assembly's support for ongoing actions and measures to promote a violence-free Nunavut, as well as to send a message to all communities that the situation is not acceptable and we must all speak out to oppose abuse and violence.

Nunavut has some ugly statistics which no one can be proud of and these statistics are frightening. It's important that this Assembly and its members set an example. We must have these difficult conversations in the House that will encourage others to do the same.

I can't imagine how many Nunavummiut suffer in silence and what they must be going through. Mr. Speaker, it's important that they know they have the support necessary to get themselves out of abusive situations, and I encourage them to do so.

I commit to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. I commit to stand up where everyone, every vulnerable individual. I commit to doing so in this Assembly, in public, as well as in private. I encourage my community to talk about these issues that must no longer go unspoken. It takes an entire community to work together to make changes.

I hope this motion to support a violence-free Nunavut will be emulated across the territory, throughout Inuit organizations, as well as our mayors and councils, and that all Nunavummiut will make similar commitments.

Mr. Speaker, we must all do our part to "un-violence" Nunavut. We must make a stand and this motion is a start. Once again, I thank the minister for putting forward this motion and I encourage all members to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting the motion. It will soon be National Women's Day in a few days and it is recognized globally. I recognize all women, and we want to have a

violence-free Nunavut.

As Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, I would like to recognize the women whose employment numbers are increasing in the mining sector. I believe that with a good job, they are proud and buying equipment. With that being the case, we heard this morning that qallunaat don't really hear about these things. I believe that it is because they have good jobs and they have been well educated. With that and with the increasing number of jobs opening in Nunavut, please apply for them.

Mr. Speaker, we see a changing nation in Nunavut and with the mining sector being developed, I have visited two mines and I am so proud to see women who are happily working. When I ask these women what they do in the mines, they tell me that they do blasting, drive huge heavy equipment, and the biggest one was being driven by a woman smaller than me. They are very proud of what they are doing, and contributing to their families. I urge everyone to apply for jobs and training programs, and not to wait. The government is not the only employer, there are other sectors.

As I stated, I will be supporting this motion, and for the information of the House, I may not be here during the vote, but I would like to be here to support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I

rise today in support of my fellow minister's motion for a violence-free Nunavut.

As you know, family violence is sadly an all too common part of life for many Nunavummiut. I care deeply about this issue and recognize the need for us to do what we can to end family violence in our territory. I am pleased to stand to inform my colleagues that our department is working on initiatives to support Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, staff within the Department of Justice have officially begun the process to review and amend our *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. The *Family Abuse Intervention Act* Working Group was established and was re-established in 2019. Since then they have created a plan to consult with Nunavummiut and other key stakeholders on the application of this legislation within our territory.

This Act came into force in 2008 and was created to protect Nunavummiut from family violence and assist by creating plans to support healing within families. Although it has helped families across the territory in times of crisis, we have identified the need to review this legislation to ensure it is meeting its original mandate.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence leave is an issue that has been discussed within our government since other jurisdictions in Canada began amending their legislation to allow for domestic leave in 2016. My department is reviewing our current legislation to ensure victims of domestic violence are able to take the time they need to help and get support in getting information on how to leave abusive relationships without being at

risk of jeopardizing their employment.

Now more than ever we need to work together and take the steps to ensure we have strong legislation and plans in place to protect our families. It is my hope that the success of these initiatives will positively impact the lives of Nunavummiut and continue to protect, promote a peaceful and safe society. As the Minister of Justice, I will work hard to make Nunavut a place where all of us are free of violence and pain.

Mr. Speaker, I can attest that with family support, a woman can prevail because I am a survivor as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I just want to inform you that my list of names is pretty full. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to support the motion in the House. I really want to support this.

We all know how wrong violence is and we all know that it is boundless, it is endless. If it's a man or a woman, a young person, an older person, an elder even, if it's a white person, an Inuk, or whatever that person is, it happens not just in Nunavut; it's apparent everywhere in all of Canada and the whole world.

Mr. Speaker, it makes you think about where violence starts from and people who hurt other people, who hurt their loved ones, who hurt their friends, where does this anger come from? It makes you think that maybe when this person was

young, they saw this happening with their parents or relatives and copied it.

Children today are the majority in Nunavut and, thinking about them, just imagine as a child if your mother or father is being hurt. If you saw that and witnessed that, how would you as a child think about that? I'm talking about very young children. They're not supposed to witness such things. They are very ugly things to have to witness, but for young children and youth, it affects their minds, obviously because whatever ugly thing they witnessed, they will never forget. If we want violence to stop in Nunavut we have to take very good care of our children. We need to have proper shelters in all the communities so that children don't have to witness these bad things.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am happy that this topic has come up in the Legislative Assembly, even though it makes us very emotional. Our government is listening to our words and I'm happy that more money is being planned so that violence can be mitigated in Nunavut. I will support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to applaud my colleague's action and leadership in bringing forward this motion. In her portfolios she often sees difficult situations and people in pain, but she is also witness hope and peoples' abilities to succeed after hardship. We all want

the same thing for Nunavummiut, for Nunavummiut to be happy, healthy, and well.

We want our children to grow up with every opportunity and with the foundations and protective factors they need to develop into their best selves.

Mr. Speaker, this means a Nunavut where violence is not a threat, not something we can't overcome, and never part of their daily lives. It also means a Nunavut where we protect, honour and celebrate women.

Mr. Speaker, Sunday is International Women's Day, I think the timing of this motion is perfect for all of us; all of us to take a unified stand, for us all to honour Nunavut's children, our mothers, sisters, daughters, friends, and one another. We all deserve better, and we all must do better.

Mr. Speaker, we all have a role to play and we can each contribute to a better Nunavut. I stand against violence; instead I stand for hope and purpose in creating a better place for all of us.

Now is the time to unanimously pass this motion and look to actions and advocacy to help our communities. Violence-free is absolutely the best way to go and it is the only way to go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur with the purpose and intent of this motion

denigrating violence. Nonetheless, I have perused various statements where it purports that aboriginal people believe in (interpretation ends) two-spirited (interpretation) people which is not part of our Inuit culture. Instead, I believe in the Inuit birthing stories and (interpretation ends) procreation (interpretation) where animals give birth along with Inuit, however, I also believe that if we don't want to see violence in our communities, then we should not just pay lip service to this way of life.

Words alone don't affect change. Today, as an Inuk living in the year 2020, sometimes I feel like an (interpretation ends) apple [potato] (interpretation) in terms of my life. My physical appearance is that of an Inuk, however, my inner self is like a *Qablunaaq*, although I try to live my life as an Inuk, as I am proud of my descendants and forefathers, and I try to emulate their heritage, their cultural teachings along with the wisdom they passed on.

I can speak our dialect as an Inuk, and so do my children. I don't look at their gender, whether they are female or male when I name them after beloved relatives.

Everyone should live free from violence, even our men and especially children. Now, in this current age, we live in a modern society where western laws and standards have been imposed unto Inuit which I must adhere to. These are not part of our ancient cultural practices, but thrust into our lives.

The colonial or (interpretation ends) Western (interpretation) law is based on punishment. Inuit culture treasures reconciliation amongst the clans, so that

everyone can again be harmonious as a society, and how can we return our fellow Inuit into being a good person again.

Western society evaluates their citizens' worth by such measures as formal education or finances, and who is part of the elite upper classes.

In Inuit society, your worth is measured on whether the family remains together and looking after one another. Issues we face in Inuit culture stem around "are we safe from the elements" and "are we properly clothed and fed?" These are two very differing cultures, and to illustrate, our elders' feelings and beliefs are completely shattered and although invisible, impacts everyone.

When our child reaches 18 years of age, under western culture and law, that child is now independent and ought to be able to look after themselves. That is not the Inuit way. If the parents are alive, then the children are still dependent on their parents for their entire lives. The parents are able to work with their children the way they see fit.

I believe many Nunavummiut today have shattered self-identities when they run into a culture different from theirs, and become resentful towards the imposition of a culture not their own, and one that we try to live under. When so-called experts from the south arrived here, an elder advised me "I thought these experts would know our culture. We thought (interpretation ends) social services (interpretation) would acknowledge our culture, but elders soon realized they don't know our culture and the status of Inuit elders. (interpretation ends) Elders were silenced.

(interpretation) It is quite distressing when many Inuit within Nunavut have so much anger held within. They start withholding their anger when they start growing up, and this withheld anger can suddenly explode outwards. To use this example, children who have witnessed the arrest of a family member or their mother are impacted, and this is the absurd and futile aspect as the child will manifest that in the future, especially when the social services apprehends the child. How can they return the child to the parents without any traumatic experiences? When the child is finally returned to the parents, these parents are also leery and unsure of how to parent their child.

Or even spouses, where the wife can request a court injunction against their husband to force separation of the couple and the injunction usually states that they cannot see one another. Inuit have a stronger word for the relationship between a wife and a husband and this olden term is hankering for one's spouse or soul mate. Part of my soul is crumbling due to the western culture's way of destroying families and imposing an alien culture's values that denigrates the Inuit family relationships as it is all based on selfishness and fracturing of families.

Many Nunavummiut then turn to violence, either through self-immolation or against family members. This usually results in suicides as they experience barriers that stem from the colonial imposition of western laws and new societal rules. The self-will not to turn to domestic violence requires us to search for the root causes and to search for when the strength of Inuit culture was destroyed by this paternalistic imposition

of western culture, by saying Inuit culture was pagan or not appropriate.

We need to review the laws, and every policy drafted and the way we operate as a society now. The knowledge of the elders can't just be used as lip service, with words like *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* here and there, but what is this ancient knowledge base that is so important to Inuit?

Most Inuit in Nunavut, the women and men, were brought up using the traditional naming system to commemorate passed relatives, regardless of whether we were a male or female, because we are Inuit and are named after our forefathers and we have a heart. We must use our hearts and our minds as our foundation for Nunavut and develop better solutions for our people. If we are honest and truthful, violence against ourselves, our children or our spouses and even our parents would lessen.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to state that I grew up in a different era, which I will try to keep concise. There were Inuit who provided services and lived with the Qallunaat, and who were they? (interpretation ends) White peoples' people (interpretation) especially the Roman Catholic Church and the Hudson's Bay Company surrounded themselves with Inuit that they paid with free clothing and foodstuffs. Let's not be like that. We must not hurt other people. We know it is very depraved and we also know that the First Nations' definition of having two spirits or (interpretation ends) two-spirited (interpretation) did not originate from the Inuit culture, as we have our own beliefs. (interpretation ends) Procreation and (interpretation)

and having babies continue today up to 2020, which came from our forefathers. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to show my support for the motion and for a violence-free Nunavut.

The effects of violence of all kinds can be devastating to the family and furthermore, increase the risks of a number of health problems, including one's mental health, which we have spoken of a lot in the House. Violence and abuse can happen at all levels. Men, women, and children can all be at risk to violence occurrences.

Mr. Speaker, this motion alone won't stop violence in Nunavut. This motion will need a foundation of strong, culturally relevant and appropriate programs and services that can be delivered and directed to the people who need it the most.

>>Applause

I am confident that under the leadership of Minister Sheutiapik, this motion will set the pathway forward towards implementing a new strategy that will address the growing number of violent occurrences happening across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this motion is a start towards a step in the right direction. This is why I will support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a proud father of three beautiful young women, I strongly support this motion.

Mr. Speaker, we all have individual beliefs and practices and should be proud of them. There's nothing wrong with voicing and following them. What is wrong is lashing out with hate and violence to those who don't share these same beliefs and values. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be attacked for my beliefs, so why would it be okay to attack others for theirs? We need to celebrate our individuality.

Mr. Speaker, all members, and everyone out there, I look forward to seeing the day when we can all live in harmony and respect our individual rights to live without fear of hate and violence. I want my daughters and my future grandchildren to grow up in a world where they don't have to fear recrimination for their individuality and promote their beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, violence does not belong here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today to voice my perspective that physical

assault has no place in Nunavut, and I completely concur with that statement.

Nonetheless, as Inuit, our historical lifestyle revolved around clans and seasonal camps, self-governing and dealing with social issues, Inuit laws, medical, and mental health issues that today is wholly under government oversight, which Inuit determined.

The government decided Inuit should be moved to more central locations and required more government administration. Further, government ships arrived to conduct health assessments amongst Inuit, with ramifications today as TB was rampant in our population. Many Inuit sent out for TB treatment on the ship never returned. Survivors of the TB treatment relayed that they weren't allowed to even step on the floor for an entire year.

Even with this intrusion, they constructed schools whereby Inuit children had to leave to attend school. Some children were as young as five or six years old, yet they suffered ill treatment, while some were sexually abused and they suffered all sorts of maltreatment.

Once Inuit started moving to the new communities as part of the school and family allowance initiatives, many families who kept their traditional practices saw their husky dogs shot, which were their sole means of hunting and their mode of transportation.

Inuit suffered sexual abuse whenever they were sent out, and it has crept into our communities as part of the assimilation efforts.

Many of these consequences resulted without purpose, as the individuals didn't want to do it but did what was done to them. Their innocence was broken, and it was the colonial attempts to assimilate Inuit by complete control of our lives that has resulted in our society today, but some Inuit overcame that and don't live like that.

As a result, Inuit are slowly healing from the maltreatment they received, and many Inuit between 60 and 65 years old were the young Inuit when we were moved into our current communities. For millennia, Inuit never had static communities, but we are learning how to manage. Albeit, this is a slow process and I am deeply grateful that the Government of Nunavut has started these initiatives that seem to move inordinately slowly to resolve these past abuses.

With respect to the minister who moved the motion, I am extremely proud of her strength as well as the seconder. As Inuit, many of us have passed these painful junctions due to the abuses inflicted on Inuit. I will support this motion.

Lastly, I want to state this: Inuit residing in our communities, who are supposed to be served and protected, are suffering abuses from the RCMP, with physical beatings and they arrest innocent people based on false accusations. Perhaps not today, but sometime during a more appropriate time, I will have questions about the need for an RCMP brutality complaint number for this purpose.

My fellow residents have experienced situations like this, with no repercussions to the RCMP, and a comprehensive

review of the RCMP operations is needed to kick out abusers within their system in Nunavut. Thank you for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): To the motion. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the mover of the motion and the seconder. Mr. Speaker, I will support the motion. Many Inuit have been on this path, experiencing violence. We're aware, Mr. Speaker, not only women suffer violence. Men suffer violence as well.

Mr. Speaker, in this House, I know that I am not the sole member who has lost relatives due to violent episodes. We have to put an end to this. Violence should not be tolerated here in Nunavut, not just against women but also for some men and young people who are beaten.

Some of us have lost children, not just me that I am aware of in this House, as several members have experienced this loss. Mr. Speaker, we are elected to represent our communities. Mr. Speaker, I will support this motion in representing my constituents from the two communities, and many families have undergone hardships in our communities and I know that.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the listening and watching audience, I hope this instills some semblance of pride that their elected representatives support their constituents' desire to stop violence and domestic abuse in our communities. I will support this motion in representing my two communities that elected me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise to the motion and support the motion as well for a violence-free Nunavut.

As mentioned by some of my colleagues, some reasons we may know why there is so much violence in Nunavut and some we don't understand our history in terms of the residential school survivors, the dog slaughter that was mentioned, and there are others that we may not know of.

As we have stated in the House many times, as I have as well, the trauma that we see and face in our communities on a daily basis... it's scary. I too in my community have seen a lot of violence and even that has happened in my community, but I am happy to hear that the Department of Justice has stated that more initiatives are being planned.

We also need to see more initiatives come out from the government as well because we hear of the programs and services available by the government but we also need to understand that our communities need the Inuit practice of counselling as well as mental health that we do need in our communities. I am in support of this as well and it is a very touchy subject but it has to be stated in this House as well. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, strongly support this motion that is in front, as many of us witness abuse and violence in the homes in our community, and this includes elder abuse and child abuse.

There was a comment made earlier that even newborns can be abused and children should not witness violence firsthand as it can impact one's life down the road. We have to return to *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* as that is one of our principles. I too support this motion.

All couples occasionally argue, but when it leads to abuse, it becomes problematic to having a healthy life. Although they try to have a good life, they end up crossing over to domestic abuse, even though couples always say they love one another.

This is never a happy occasion when it occurs in one's life. Even our beloved elders are suffering abuse and threats from their own children and when they ask for help, sometimes they have no one else to turn to. I support this motion on the floor. I totally understand a loss felt by a parent as he was experiencing mental health issues.

(interpretation ends) My best friend sitting in the booth (interpretation) also lost a child, and I love him and we must put a stop to this episodic era of violence, and try to minimize the move towards abusive situations, as our goal is to have a healthy life and I believe everyone knows that.

I support this motion. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also support the motion. I fully support it. I have three daughters and one grandchild and I love them. I used to have four sisters. There are only three of them now and it was by another human's hands that there are only three now, and it hurts.

Having violence against another person has to stop. (interpretation ends) I am one of the many walking wounded, and many in here are walking wounded. It is always so nice to see so many beautiful women in the room at the same time. I hope you get all of the protection you can get. If you need somebody's help, give me a call.

Mr. Speaker, violence has to stop, not just at home and not just behind closed doors, but it has to stop in the playground, in the schools, in the workplace, and yes, on the internet. There is no place for violence in this world, especially not in where we say is the most beautiful territory, Nunavut. Violence has to stop. We have to do our part. As Nunavummiut, we have to do our part; not just the people this room, we have to put a stop to violence. We can't keep losing our sisters because of violence at the hands of other people.

If you have issue, seek somebody who can help you. There are people out there who can help you. Mr. Speaker, I would like this government to be building schools, playgrounds, community halls, arenas and swimming pools, and not safe shelters, correctional facilities, prisons

and jails.

>>Applause

I support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I wholeheartedly support this motion for a violence-free Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I lost an aunt to murder. She was taken in front of my grandparents eyes and I can't imagine, as a mother, what my grandma went through. I have four daughters, and I want them to be protected in our territory, and in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of Nunavummiut to speak up against all types of violence. Let's break this cycle and continue to work our way to becoming a happy and healthy territory. I support this motion, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion. In just a few days there is going to be an International Women's Day and I feel that everyday should be a women's day.

We always love our partners and we always want to show love. I remember my mother on this day. Every time I felt down, she would try to give me words of wisdom and lead me in the right direction. I now have 6 children, 19 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren, and if it weren't for my mother as she was a very strong woman, Mr. Speaker.

Women are very strong, and many men are proud of the women and we thank them for their tremendous efforts that led to our living.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the positive contributions women make to the lives of many, be it their families, their communities, or beyond. I would especially like to take time to recognize a group of students who are here in the House sitting over across this other side there and today making positive contributions for our territory, our beautiful Nunavut, specifically the students, staff, and faculty of the social service program offered by Nunavut Arctic College.

>>Applause

We in this Chamber appreciate social service workers provide to our communities with this vital support. They interact directly with individuals and families in need and provide support with their strong knowledge about government programs and services. Their role in helping Nunavummiut during the hardest days is a vital gift to our communities.

For the current academic year, I am happy to report the social service worker

program is being offered at two campuses in Nunavut. Year one is being offered in Cambridge Bay and year two at the Nunatta Campus here in Iqaluit. Between these two locations there are a total of 24 students enrolled in this program.

In addition, a new course called social policy in action was added to the second year offering. This course provides students with an opportunity to learn about policy development and provides information about the players, processes and tools that are available to those engaging in this policy.

Mr. Speaker, today in this House we have students in the second year of the social worker program offered here in Iqaluit. They are scheduled to graduate on June 10 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that these students are already contributing to the lives of Nunavummiut. In December last year they launched a very successful campaign to collect winter clothing donations and personal products. Their efforts ensured that the residents of Iqaluit and within the college community received much-needed items before Christmas. They have already proven to be generous, thoughtful and quick to act and we are thankful for their kindness.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating these precious students of the social worker program. May they continue their work of being positive influence social agents in our territory. I stand here proud of what they've already done and, Mr. Speaker, this motion is not segregating anyone. It's for everybody. Everybody has a right to live

peacefully under no oppression from anyone.

>> *Applause*

Thank you. I stand here proud of what they have already done and grateful for their future role in helping happy, healthy strong Nunavummiut, free of violence and full of hope.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the motion. However, I feel that there could be an addition about the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* aspect because, as you know our past had no laws written down, and we all had an oral tradition in the past. For the future, we need to continue to ensure that our traditions are passed on.

Inuit would work together through, working together. I feel that is what needs to be incorporated into our Nunavut territory; we need to work and discuss and engage what our problem is, and solve the problems within our territory ourselves and not look for solutions from outside.

Mr. Speaker, in our territory in Nunavut we have to work together for the common good, and so I support this.

I also recall and remember that we have all been given words of wisdom, even me. My grandfather gave me words of wisdom when I was a young lad; always listen to your parents, he said, and

always make sure you live by their rules. It is a very strong sense of direction that he gave me.

Even accordingly, we have to live a positive life. I am very happy about this motion. I support the motions, and I will support it myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the Motion. Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak briefly to the motion.

Mr. Speaker, violence, as we have heard, can transform in many ways. It could be physical, sexual, or mental and abuse can occur.

I support my colleagues. Mr. Speaker as you know, violence is very much a prominent issue in all of our communities and in Nunavut. It does not matter; it can come out of nowhere. It could happen anytime.

Those of us living in the communities can be harmed physically, sexually, mentally, or through words.

I will be brief, Mr. Speaker. I just want to think about what was mentioned last week: (interpretation ends) bullying is not cool.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I will support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: To the motion. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow colleagues. To the motion, I will make sure that it is passed.

In our life we all can make a mistake. It does not matter; a woman, a man an adult, it does not matter who, we have all experienced some way of tripping in our lives. I, too, just recalled something as recollections will surface upon hearing about it.

Another piece of advice my mother would pass on, "Since you are a man, be very wary when you are starting to consider a relationship." On occasion I would forget it and I ended up making a mistake and what I recalled at that point was this advice: even if we are on that road, once the couple starts to bear their feelings by communicating, once we have learned that process, then one can begin to assist other Inuit.

On reaching that point, I spoke her words of advice that as humans many of us can only learn by committing mistakes but learning is life-long and as a man, yes, I ended up going hunting after my error and in reflecting on that alone, I learned from that event.

As a woman, when one is sewing a garment, if you make a mistake you just learned from it, then they recut it, fix the mistake and continue. This is the same principle in our lives we should follow, as long as the goal is right then we can really collaborate on facing this challenge of domestic abuse.

It won't ever stop, nonetheless, what this showcases to our fellow Inuit is the need to be aware of what constitutes abuse and they can look around. We must try

to stop this trend albeit it will likely be at a snail's pace. However, only by placing a future vision for our youth especially the generation that may be starting to consider relationships and we need to stop the youth from having babies as that is your path to a brighter future.

Since youth are our future here in Nunavut, on occasion you too will witness episodes where you become angry, become argumentative but violence should not be the last answer, as it can impact one's entire life on down the road. Obviously, it will affect your future prospects.

Another issue brought up related to abused men, who are usually hidden as if in a closet, especially when they suffer violence, and I wonder what else the government can work to identify this class, especially since they talk about incorporating *Inuit Qaujimaqatigangit* as well as *Katujjiqatigiingniq* or partnership, and *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq*, healthy living.

This was one of the themes voiced, and only when this becomes the foundation for government operations, then our constituents within Nunavut will start to feel the impact, and the spirit of helping will be able to surface. Sometimes, I feel inadequate when I am speaking these words as I feel I am much too young to be speaking that way.

Nonetheless, I was brought up by elders in a traditional environment where the advice springs up sometimes, and ever since I sat in this chair, I have tried to advocate on behalf of our elders and youth. Nowadays, I can confidently stand and look at the women in our House; we must take a stand for them

now. I believe we all support this motion.

The need for collaboration is paramount along with the spirit of openness, and by working together we can grow. As I stated earlier many people must first make a mistake sometimes in our lives to wake up and learn from it, then we can convey that experience to others. I also want to offer these words of advice: people in the abusive relationship lash out at their loved ones, so let's not just make them recall the episode, and don't prejudge and belittle them either.

Everyone has an opportunity to receive assistance, and to repeat again, only with full collaboration can this issue be resolved. Personally, I will continue to believe this advice as it comes from IQ, the need to work together in partnership and trying to resolve this challenge.

I am glad that the government is taking this opportunity to provide a unanimous position especially on this front. I continue to encourage further progress related to IQ and our principles, and if you enact a solid foundation then this will, perhaps alleviate the problem as we will have a solid foundation. Our youth will have a strong foundation. This again goes back to the Inuit words, that our Inuit identity will never disappear but, only through collaborative efforts by showing this foundation and not just being prejudiced, to stop pointing at each other.

We must work to gather together and our elders are a source of sage advice when it comes to social issues. Mr. Speaker, I will support the motion. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's not a lot that I can say that hasn't already been said here today, but I would like rise and show my support for this motion today. I would agree with my colleagues that violence of any kind is not acceptable nor should it ever be accepted.

I was raised by parents who had to raise 15 children. My parents raised us not only to respect others but to walk away from violence of any kind. Be a better person than those who cause violence against you.

I would just say to all parents out there: talk to your children, no matter their age, and tell your children that violence is not cool or acceptable. Let's break the cycle and make this world a better place for all of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: To the motion. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Would the mover of the motion please have the final reply, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank each and every one of you. I didn't shed any tears this time around. Once, we were over there. We are here now. Where do we want to go from here?

I was also brought up by elders. My mother, Ningeoraapik, used to say I can't relive my life, and you will never see the environment that I grew up in. There will be people who come here

from all over the country. Just remember where your ancestors came from and take what knowledge you can from the other cultures, so that's what I do every day. My mother was very strong and she wasn't intimidated by anyone.

I was very happy because I didn't know that the students were here and that they were studying social work; Geela Natanine, she wasn't included in this morning's list.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

A few more people were here, employees and some of our staff are here. I thank them all for being here.

It has an impact on mental health and we'd like to know the underlying issues. We won't tell them all why they murdered. Of course, we are affected. We cry. We have mixed emotions. I don't know how many times I've gone through that. It's been over 30 years since my younger sister was murdered, and we don't know the reasoning or the cause. It will be two years now since my older sister's son murdered and committed suicide.

We have all been affected in different ways, and I know that it was mental health. When Umingmak opens maybe, if the Umingmak was open when he was nine years old maybe we would have seen a different outlook.

There is mental illness involved in cases. He had two children; he was a carver and fed his children. And here if we point fingers at people who are abusive or violent, I am not pointing fingers at the abuser, I just want to see abuse and

violence stopped.

In our ways, it could be your language; it does not matter where you come from. I was brought up by elders. I was born in Toronto because my biological mother had TB and I was brought up by elders who did not speak English, so I am just like everybody else.

We have to look at everybody equally. I am very pleased today about the event. Sometimes we think maybe I didn't do enough, maybe I wasn't vocal enough. Advice wasn't given from books or education. I didn't hear about *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* because it was our life, and we were living it.

I am very grateful to every member here. During the question period yesterday a question was raised about the funding allocations for the Department of Family Services. You can now see the increase here, and I wish we could increase the funding annually to fund these initiatives we must implement. We are the voice of the abused today, so let us continue to advocate for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Hang on. Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: Mr. Speaker I would like a recorded vote. I think it is very important to vote so I would like a recorded vote. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour please stand and sit down when I

acknowledge your name.

Mr. Kusugak. (interpretation) My apologies.

Ms. Sheutiapik.

Mr. Kusugak.

Ms. Ehaloak.

Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Netser.

Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Akoak.

Ms. Angnakak.

Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Kaernerker.

Mr. Main.

Mr. Lightstone.

Ms. Kamingoak.

Mr. Qirngnuq.

Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Towtongie.

Mr. Keyootak.

(interpretation ends) The motion has been passed unanimously.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Thank you. Let's proceed. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 39, 40, and 42 with Ms. Angnakak in the Chair.

We will now have a short break for 10 minutes.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 14:45 and Committee resumed at 15:03*

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

Chairperson (Ms. Angnakak): Welcome back, everybody. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 39, 40, and 42. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 39 and the 2020-21 main estimates, starting with the Department of Justice and followed by the Department of Finance and the Department of Environment. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 39?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Chairperson: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Ehaloak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairperson: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses to the table.

Does the committee agree that the witnesses can join her at the table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Alright then. I thought you would agree. Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my left and your right is Adrienne Silk, she is the acting deputy minister, and to my right and your left is Madam Jessica Young, who is the Director of Policy and Planning. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Now, yesterday we completed the opening comments, so what I will do is go into general comments. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I have no general comments. I

thought we got to questions on the first page. My apologies. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Not a problem. Anybody have general comments to the opening comments? No? Okay. Let's go into the Directorate. E-4. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$22,028,000. Agreed? Any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I'm going to jump right in here.

Page 59, your priorities for this current fiscal year uses this term "community-based policing solutions." It's also a priority for this upcoming fiscal year. I wonder if the minister could unpack that term and give some examples of what community-based policing solutions are. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just one moment.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The RCMP is committed to providing policing services that best meet the needs of Nunavummiut. This is being done by enhancing law enforcement activities with positive community policing initiatives. Officers volunteer time in the community outside of their police duties that contribute to community policing. It's very important for the police to become a part of their community. The Department of Justice encourages the RCMP to continue these community policing initiatives. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Ms. Ehaloak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Okay, so community-based policing solutions mean the police volunteering outside of their working hours. What else does "community-based policing solutions" entail? I'm just trying to understand what this means. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. What the RCMP does is they have an online involvement with Facebook in the communities to inform Nunavummiut of activities the RCMP is doing. They are also a part of the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Information Committee and the Embrace Life Council that was created by the Government of Nunavut Quality of Life Secretariat, Nunavut Tunngavik, and Embrace Life Council.

They are also a part of the Nunavut Seniors Society and they provide education on elder abuse. They partake with national youth services. They partake in RCMP talk, which involves videoconferencing with various schools nationally to discuss social issues. They're also in the Aboriginal Shield and this is a youth-driven program that provides substance abuse prevention, bullying, healthy lifestyles coaching to indigenous communities and community activities.

Territorially they have seven events that all communities do, which is the Canadian Ranger program, school

presentations, firearms safety and trigger lock awareness, school lockdown practice, Terry Fox Run, Run for the Cure, and also social events that the communities might have.

In Iqaluit they have 13 events. There's elder abuse awareness program, school liaison program, the impaired driving walk-through program, the safe and responsible driving project, Qikiqtani General Hospital operation plan participants, mental health working group, and they also participate in Nunavut emergency management, Christmas dinners for elders, regular visits at the Elders Qammaq here in Iqaluit, soup kitchen volunteering, sports fundraisers, Toonik Tyme BBQ, and charity hockey games.

In Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay they also do the impaired driving walk-through program. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I guess I requested some examples of what this involves. I didn't necessarily request a list of every single project that they do across the territory, but seeing as the minister just read off of some list, maybe I'll just request that list of community-based policing activities be provided to the committee. I'll put that out as a request and I'll move onto my next question, which is about the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

I know that the department is working on this as a priority and there are some issues with the Act as it is currently

written. The priority on page 60 say "Begin the legislative process to amend..." the intervention Act. What is the timeline for amending that piece of legislation? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The *Family Abuse Intervention Act* has various groups that partake in this Act, and it is the Justice of the Peace, RCMP members, the manager for the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, community justice specialists and representatives from Family Services. Community visits are scheduled to begin this March 2020. I don't actually have a breakdown of when it will be completed, but I can get back to the member. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I note that even in 2021-22, one of the priorities is "Continue the legislative process for *Family Abuse Intervention Act*..." We have just spoken about domestic violence here in the House today, and it says in the status update that this is a priority piece of legislation. I encourage the department to keep pushing on that and hopefully, as much as possible; complete that work quickly.

The last item I wanted to ask about was the Civil Forfeiture Office, on page 59. I know this is a new office. Has anything been forfeited to date under that Civil Forfeiture Office? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Main, for the question. No, our director civil forfeiture was hired in the spring and he is currently working on regulations and policies to ensure that he can work with the RCMP and the courts to ensure that we can start the forfeiture process. Hopefully we will have it up and running in the fall 2020. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you. The next person on the list is Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I wanted to ask a question about something that was raised by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove regarding the Civil Forfeiture Office. What sort of consideration has been done? Like what sort of crime is it trying to stop in Nunavut? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: What the Civil Forfeiture Office is trying to combat bootlegging and illicit sales of drugs. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister for that answer. My next question is that in the department of draft 2020-23 indicates that one of its priorities for 2020-21 is to begin the legislative process to amend the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and the territorial offences legislation. What

specific concerns with the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and territorial offences legislation have been identified to date? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. What the current issues are that the department is concerned about the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* is the technical issues related to orders including how you have a new order applied, how to alter of revoke an order, assistance for individuals who wish to challenge an emergency protection order, the ability of individuals to access assistance orders and compensation orders, access to legal supports for community justice outreach workers, the underuse of the community intervention orders, clarifying definitions under the Act, examples including annoying and care relationships. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: My final question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Department of Justice 2020-23 indicates that work is ongoing to ensure that policies and legislation reflect Inuit societal values. What specific types of training in Inuit societal values are provided to staff to achieve this goal and I didn't quite understand the last sentence. Maybe my mind was too Inuk of the minister regarding that, I took down notes, the last comment that she made. That's my final question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The last question clarifying definitions in the *Family Abuse and Interventions Act* there is a section where it's got definition just like every other piece of legislation. One of the examples that we're trying to clarify under the definitions is the term annoying and also the term care relationships. Those are things we want define and give it a little bit more concrete definition of those words.

Regarding your other question is that in the fall of 2019, the department introduced this legislation through consultations. The department collaborated with other departments including the Inuit societal values experts that are in the Department of Culture and Heritage so that we ensure that Inuit societal values are incorporated into legislations and policies that are developed for the Department of Justice for any piece of legislation. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Within this document, next to the chair's opening remarks, the Member for Pangnirtung submitted written comments near the bottom paragraph where it speaks about sexual assault cases. It was submitted in January 2020, just recently, last month actually. There were 625 individuals charged under that category within our territory of Nunavut and communities.

Also, another fairly close figure lists 420 sexual offences against minors. Out of the 625 cases, five are classified as high risk with the potential to reoffend.

I'll say this in English so that it's clearly understood. (interpretation ends) Of 625, five are classified as high risk. (interpretation) I wish to comprehend the exact meaning of "high risk." It has quotation marks. That's my question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The definition of "high risk" is an offender who is liable to reoffend. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This other item I read on page 3 relates to alcohol confiscations where they list the seizure of spirits, and there were many seizures starting from September up to December 2019. Those communities are Arctic Bay, Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Kugluktuk, and Rankin Inlet. Those communities are listed. Can I ask which of these communities are controlled and which are prohibited? I want to clearly understand, hence my question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq, for your question. I don't have that level of detail of information that the member is asking for, but we can make sure that we have that list provided to the members. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The reason why I want clarification on this front is the usage of the English word “spirits.” Does this mean the soul of the alcohol? Many Inuit use that word to denote spirits. Perhaps it is making me misunderstand, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The definition of spirits in the alcohol and drug seizures is actually hard alcohol. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Perhaps if I partook of these spirits, I would better understand, but since I am a teetotaler, I have no idea what it meant in this context and causes my misunderstanding.

When communities are controlled communities, there have still been seizures, for example, Rankin Inlet, where 67 seizures occurred and the value moneywise totalled \$13,400. I would like to know situations where seizures can occur in an open community, which is the reason for my question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The 67 separate seizures of the alcohol, the street value is totalled at \$13,400. If someone was to purchase for that amount of alcohol, the 67 seizures, that amount if alcohol that

those 67 seizures actually cost was \$13,400. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This other item immediately below it, where there is a bullet, it is written here that (interpretation ends) 112 grams of cocaine headed to Iqaluit was seized in Montreal. (interpretation) There are many drugs aside from cannabis that are completely different. Some drugs are legal and some are not legal. I don't know what that is and I'm not doing this on purpose; I just want to understand clearly. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When we talk about 112 grams of cocaine, it is an actual type of drug and what it means is that cocaine is an illegal substance. That's how the seizure had taken place and I hope that can answer Mr. Qirngnuq's question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Moving on, I don't see it on any... . There's RCMP in the communities and they enforce the law and with alcohol. I don't know if the minister has a breakdown. If she cannot respond, maybe we can get the information at a later time. I would like to understand, Madam Chairperson, if I'm clear with my question, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I didn't understand the question, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq, if you can clarify it.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To use this example, someone was charged with an alcohol-related offence in Kugaaruk and they arrive at the court case. What about Taloyoak, if that person wanted to be questioned? How many cases were there in my constituency? Does the department have that information? That's my question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq, for clarifying your question. We don't have that level of detail of information for the community of Taloyoak, but we can certainly find them. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you. Next on my list is Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In your letter dated February 24, the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre has one vacancy. Can you elaborate on that? What is the status of that vacancy? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The status of the

position is that it is vacant and we will look into hiring the individual and try and fill it as soon as possible. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. What position is that? What position are you talking about? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am sorry to say that I don't have that level of information. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, but we can get it to the member.

Chairperson: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. And I look forward to knowing what that vacancy is, and when it will be filled.

Moving on, your department's draft 2020-23 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2020-21 is to begin the legislative process to amend the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and territorial offences legislation. What specific concerns of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and territorial offences legislation have been identified to date? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I had stated this earlier when Mr. Main had asked the question and one of them... I can say them again. We are looking at technical

issues related to orders, including how you can have a new order apply, how to alter or book an order, assisting individuals who wish to challenge an emergency protection order, the ability of individuals to access assistance orders and compensation orders, access to legal supports through the community justice outreach workers, the underuse of community intervention orders, we are looking at that as well.

The clarification again, the definitions under the act, a clearer definition such example are annoying and care relationships. The other Act we are looking in that as well. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Department of Justice 2020-23 business plan indicates that work is on-going to ensure that policies and legislations reflect Inuit societal values. What specific types of training in Inuit societal values are provided to staff to achieve this objective? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We work with the Department of Culture and Heritage on ensuring that our legislation, any piece of legislation that is prepared and written from the department, or the departments that wish to write or change legislation comes through the Department of Justice and we, our department makes sure that Inuit societal values are included in those pieces of legislation. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Moving on, a therapeutic justice pilot program was introduced in the community of Cambridge Bay in 2019-2020. What is the current status of that initiative? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The therapeutic justice pilot program in Cambridge Bay launched in April 1, 2019 and since the program has started, as of March 31, or as of to date, we have had 12 applicants and the program has been very successful for those individuals or the clients that have taken the program. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The coroner's office is funded through the Department of Justice Directorate Branch. When will the next annual report by the Chief Coroner be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That was my last question.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am just trying to find my numbers here, sorry.

I do not have an exact date, but I can make sure that it... It is not statutory, but I can, we can provide some information to the member. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good afternoon, minister, Ms. Silk, and Ms. Young, and Mr. Mahmood.

First I would like to start off by asking the minister to convey my gratitude to the RCMP for their efforts leading to the alcohol and drug seizures. I'm glad to see that a significant amount of hard drugs being kept out of Iqaluit.

Earlier this afternoon the minister had mentioned that the Department of Justice is working toward amending the *Labour Standards Act* to allow for domestic violence leave. Would the minister be able to provide a little bit more information as to exactly what is being considered? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. The Department of Justice is considering introducing changes to the *Labour Standards Act*, as the member mentioned, to allow employees to take leave as a result of domestic violence.

Such leave is meant to give people who are victims of domestic violence time to do such things as improve their personal situation, such as dealing with police, getting medical treatment, leaving their abusive partner, finding housing, and seeking legal advice.

A complete review of the *Labour Standards Act* was done, and the proposed domestic violence leave

provisions would be included as a part of this comprehensive amendment to the Act and such amendments are expected to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly in 2021, and we expect... . Examples are up to 10 days a year, with five days of paid leave. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. Domestic violence leave was a major theme of today's motion and I'm glad to see that the government is moving to provide additional support. Many other jurisdictions across Canada have either amended the *Labour Standards Act* or their *Public Service Act* to incorporate domestic violence leave. Will you amendments to the *Labour Standards Act* also affect public servants? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The public servants fall under the Department of Human Resources, so domestic violence leave would actually be for any other employer within Nunavut itself. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for that explanation. I will be posing some similar question to another department at a later date.

Moving on, I have questions about the Inuit employment plan. The last two years I believe, it has been identified that

BCC, the Baffin Correctional Centre, as well as Makigiaqta have had very low rates of Inuit employment. Makigiarvik, sorry, that's the correct name. I would like to ask: in the 12 months, has the minister undertaken any new initiatives to try to tackle that? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The department is trying to increase our Inuit employment and one of the ways we're looking forward to increasing our Inuit employment is through our program through Algonquin College to start a two-year program to train ten correctional caseworkers to become corrections employees.

With support to the Nunavut Law Program, we will try to hire some of those students once they have graduated. Also, specialized training to staff throughout the territory to training content is adopted to ensure it's relevant to Nunavut and that our employees are equipped to meet the individual needs of our inmate population. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I applaud the minister for taking up this initiative, as this is something that has been brought up before. The minister just recently made the announcement and the program is set to commence in May, a mere two months from now. What sort of actions is the minister and the department doing to advertise and what efforts are being made to ensure as many applicants will

be received as possible? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For our Inuit employment plan, I forgot to mention that our community justice outreach workers as well are coming from the hamlets to the Government of Nunavut and also our Sivuliqtiksanut internship program. It's a mentoring program to build capacity and assist Inuit in career development and advancement.

For the corrections program, our first step is to take is to ask our casual corrections workers and caseworkers if they would like to take this corrections training, a two-year program, and if not, then we will advertise to the public Nunavut-wide. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My next question is: how many casual caseworkers are currently employed? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Those numbers fluctuate because, as I stated earlier, our casual employment in corrections is very high. Some people who come and work for corrections for a couple of weeks find it very mentally, physically and emotionally stressful. Our casual employment fluctuates all the time. We will take into consideration those that are serious about becoming caseworkers and

we have already put a call out to the residents of Nunavut for the students to partake in the program. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. In the written response it states that it will be split between Ottawa as well as on-the-job training in Nunavut. It also specifies that the portion in Nunavut will be paid on-the-job training. For the time that these students or employees or whoever will be attending courses at Algonquin College, will they be on education leave? Will they be receiving education leave allowance to supplement or offset their salaries or will they be reliant on FANS? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. They will be supplemented by the Department of Justice. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, minister, I'm glad to hear that. My next question is in relation to the rental office. In your written correspondence, you did identify that a large majority of complaints were received from the landlords. It also states that there are issues with capacity at local housing organizations.

I just want to seek some clarification. Are local housing organizations submitting complaints to the rental office due to tenants from public housing? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm going to ask my Director of Policy to answer Mr. Lightstone's questions. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Young.

Ms. Young: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, we can say that many of the applications that come from the local housing authorities are those cases, and you see the numbers have gone down quite substantially in the last year because key positions within the local housing authority are vacant. So, due to their capacity issues they've not been placing as many complaints. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just out of curiosity are public housing tenants also allowed to submit complaints to the rental office? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes they can. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Moving on. Sorry, Madam Chairperson. I have no further questions for the director. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In the opening

comments on page...there are no numbers, but it is the last page, which refers to the justice outreach workers (interpretation ends) from the hamlets back to the Government of Nunavut. I don't quite understand this position. Is this position a part-time worker, working when the court party comes into town, and does this person attend the court hearings? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Community Justice Outreach Workers in the hamlets work with the community corrections part of our department. This entails making sure that people who are on probation come in and meet... They work under Restorative Justice Division under the Department of Justice. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. These people are separate from the individuals who ask their clients to visit their lawyers when they come into the community and talk to the lawyers before they go to court. I'm not sure if I understand this position. There is a person, I think, working for Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik, or is this position a position that we're talking about? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: The community justice outreach workers work to help individuals under the restorative justice plans and they also assist with individuals who want to apply for

community intervention orders or emergency protection orders. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There are two positions in Pond Inlet that have an office at the government office and they work for corrections. There are two positions there and this position that you're referring to, community justice outreach workers, in Pond Inlet in 2017-18 it says "Already moved" and the position was vacant at the time and there was no office space. Can you update us as to whether this vacant position has been filled and whether there's an office now? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Maybe I can explain exactly what this means. The position in Pond Inlet, when you look at the status, when it says "Already moved," it means that it has been moved from the Hamlet of Pond Inlet, who is now under the Government of Nunavut under the Department of Justice. When we say "vacant," the position is not filled and there is no office space, but we are working on trying to find office space so that we can hire an individual for Pond Inlet. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My last question is under page 55 of the business plan. In the 2019-2020 priorities it goes on to say, "Continue to support a project for diversions for therapeutic treatments and

traditional Inuit counselling for accused persons and offenders.” It goes on to say that “Status: Federal funding was provided for a three-year Therapeutic Justice Pilot Program based in Cambridge Bay.” I would assume that it already had in 2019 and is still continuing and in 2020-21 it will be the third year of this pilot project. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Therapeutic Justice Program in Cambridge Bay, you are correct, has started and it is a successful program. Because it was a federally funded program, the Department of Justice is working on a request to Justice Canada so that we can extend the program for one more year. Hopefully in that process we can also apply for additional funding so that we can run the program in another community. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It’s a pilot project and once the pilot project program is completed, will the Department of Justice find funds to... ? If it’s successful, will they be looking for a budget to run this program in the other communities? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Like I stated, the funding that we receive is from Justice Canada and we will continue to push for extra funding so that we can continue

this program and possibly extend it and have it in other communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Next person on my list is Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good afternoon, minister and staff.

I’m going to go towards the Legal Services Board. Your department’s 2020-21 main estimates indicate that the proposed budget for the Legal Services Board is \$11,818,000, which is unchanged from 2019-2020. What consideration has been given to increasing the budget for the Legal Services Board? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At this time there is no request to increase the budget as they have lapsed funds from this year and the year before. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In your business plan page 80, second-last bullet at the bottom, “Continue to work on implementing the goals of the Legal Services Board’s strategic plan.” Under status, the very last line says, “...breaking down bureaucratic barriers.” I just want to know what that means. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just one moment.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The definition that is being used for “bureaucratic barrier” is to make it easier for people to access legal services. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That means right now when people want access to legal services, but there’s a barrier now at the moment, a bureaucratic barrier. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. No, there is no barrier for individuals to apply to the Legal Services Board for assistance. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 80 at the bottom, Inuit Employment Plan, how far are they ahead in Inuit hiring at the department? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Legal Services Board continues to have 100 percent Inuit employment in its frontline staff, court workers, and regional leadership positions. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ehaloak, anymore? Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. Just one more question, in the letter to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness dated February 24, 2020, on page 6, I’m just wondering what “disturbances caused by tenants” means, just an explanation. Thank you. That’s final.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Disturbances caused by tenants could include people partying there and then RCMP had to be called or where there was activity going on that the other neighbours felt that those kinds of disturbances are not...they’re playing loud music or doing things afterhours. Those are the kinds of disturbances. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. I have no more names on my list. Oh, did you have your hand up? Okay. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Looking at the business plan on page 60, the Department of Justice, in collaboration with the Legislation Division under Inuit societal values, you sort of mentioned on that. Are these local community justice committees also included in your collaboration, when it comes to Inuit societal values? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Kaernek, for your question. No. As I stated earlier, we work with the Department of Culture and Heritage

because there they have the experts on Inuit societal values. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I would request them to also be included, because they are also a local representative when it comes to referrals.

Moving onto my next question. You have mentioned the Legal Services Board. My question is: how much money did the Legal Services Board lapse? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. They differ from year to year. I don't have that level of information right now. I can assure the member that I can get it to him. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) You can submit that before our winter session is over. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I was just given some notes on exactly how much they had lapsed. The Legal Services Board could not fully utilize its budget and had a budget surplus of \$330,000 for 2018-19. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you to the minister for providing that. What are the next steps if this happens again? My final question. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If this happens again with the Legal Services Board, their contribution agreement will be reviewed again. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. First of all, I would like to say welcome to my father who has arrived, and my family members. My niece, Emily she is in the law program and my older sister, Eva, is here as well. She is also in college. Please feel welcome.

>> *Applause*

I want to comment first: (interpretation) What we have requested in Pangnirtung for an additional police officer, I would like to say thank you that it's in the planning stage and that there is a plan to add one more RCMP officer in Pangnirtung. The fact that they are starting to hire Inuit at the dispatch offices, we are always asking for that in the communities. Thank you for doing that. It is going to be easier now for the people in Pangnirtung who can't speak English. First of all I wanted to say thank you for doing that.

In the business plan in the directorate section for 2020-21, at the bottom it states that in 2021-22 they will try to get more Inuit workers at the Legal Services Board, and in 2022-23 to have more Inuit. It is the same every year. The first question I have is: what is your target per year? If you look ahead five years, in the next five years how many Inuit are planning to hire? That is my first question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Is she referring to Inuit employment in the RCMP or Inuit employment in the Legal Services Board? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Nakashuk, please you clarify your question.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) In your business plan under the Advisory and Administration Services, every year the department is targeting increasing Inuit employment within the Department of Justice. I'm not sure which areas you have targeted, but I am curious to know if you have a target number as to how many Inuit you want to employ. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We don't have a targeted amount but we are trying to increase our Inuit employment. Currently the Department of Justice, our Inuit employment is at 23 percent, and

we will target to...or 44 percent Inuit representation and hopefully, following the Inuit Employment Plan of the Government of Nunavut, we can increase our short-term, medium-term and long-term goals to ensure that we meet the targeted amounts for the Department of Justice.

Chairperson: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The other question I wanted to ask was about the community justice committees. Does every community have a community justice committee? That is my question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Not every community in Nunavut has a community justice committee, but we do call-outs to the communities that don't have them so that we can start working towards having community justice committees in our communities and those that don't have community justice committees, the closest community with those community justice committees we can refer individuals to those communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The reason I brought this up was it was brought to my attention. On a yearly basis I guess the Department of Justice would hold annual board meetings with the community justice outreach workers as well, here in Iqaluit, and I know that has not been happening. I'm curious to

know if why they haven't continued that. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In October 2019, all community justice specialists who work with the community justice committees had a face to face strategic planning meeting to discuss next steps in restorative justice training and in January 2020, community justice specialist and community justice outreach workers participated in NUHALT Module 1, in a continued effort to build skills and capacity of staff working with restorative justice clients. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I do not understand what the other group is responsible for.

It was said that the committee I believe they would meet with other community justice committees, that is why I was bringing the question up. And within the community... and they are called petty crimes, like break and enters, charges with break and enters are usually handled through the committee, through the justice committee. What other support do you provide to the community justice committees?

Is the honorarium the only support that they get? Do they get other support as well? Do they have a standard that they have to follow if they have to council someone, or talk to someone?

How do they talk to the people facing court? How do they apply Inuit societal values? I just want more to understand better how it works with the local community justice committees.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Community justice committees deal with diversions. So that if an individual has done a petty crime they are forwarded to the community justice committee and usually they do use Inuit societal values on how to help these individuals.

These community justice committees are trained by our community justice specialists, including the community justice outreach workers. We have guidelines...they are trained in guidelines, they are trained in small petty crime justice and they are paid an honorarium. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation) I am curious to know what materials are provided for all communities. Is there a guideline that they follow or is it just...? Would it be just a five-minute talk with the youth? Are there guidelines on how many times they would meet? I am curious to know how effective these meetings are. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am going to ask

Jessica Young to answer Ms. Nakashuk's question because it is kind of to the duties of community justice committees and justice specialists. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Young.

Ms. Young: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The community justice committees are support through our community justice outreach workers as well as our community justice specialist who for the most part works for the Government of Nunavut.

They are provided training and resources on what their duties are as community justice committees. As committees, their job is when they receive diversions from the RCMP or the Public Prosecution Services of Canada, their job is to then refer those offenders to supports and counselling and things like that that are available to them. That is essentially what they do. Thank you.

Chairperson: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) My question to that is: is there material across the board that is used by these counsellors? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes every community justice committee is provided with guidelines that they follow under the Department of Justice. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): I don't really have any more questions. It has been a concern brought to me. Is there a plan to review the way your department works with the community justice committees? I would like the activities of local committees be accepted more. That's my final question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Community justice committees usually are individuals who have a lot of knowledge in Inuit societal values and take into consideration how and when a diversion is sent to them. The department works with guidelines to ensure that the justice committees are aware of some of the laws and some of the procedures that are done through the Department of Justice. We work very closely with the community justice committees. We help them to ensure that they know the process and they can make the best judgment for clients. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Directorate. E-4. \$22,028,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will be going to E-5. Please indicate ahead of time if you have questions. It would be better if you say you have questions now. Mr. Keyootak, you will go first. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I welcome the minister and her officials.

First of all, I'll supplement the question my colleague asked. How often do the community justice committees meet? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. They meet every time a diversion is forwarded to them from either court or through the RCMP. Thank you, Madam Chairperson...Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go to something else. Your 2020-21 budget includes \$44,984,000 for policing services through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. There's going to be a decrease of almost \$1 million for policing services. It was approved in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. What are the reasons for the decrease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam...Mr. Chairman. The budget for the RCMP is less than last year's because the budget included two projects and one of the projects was RCMP staff housing of \$2,840,000 and the \$612,000 that was used for a pilot project for six RCMP civilian members for [2017-18] and 2019-2020, and these funds lapsed because the federal government gave a portion of this funding to the Department of Justice and they had lapsed their total funding. We couldn't get the commitment from the federal government for these amounts, so we

had to take them out of the budget. Thank you, Madam Chairperson...Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. I assure you Ms. Angnakak will be back shortly and you can call her Ms. Chairman, Madam Chairwoman, but anyway Mr. Keyootak, do you have another question? Please go ahead.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to ask; your department's 2020-23 business plan indicates that there 162 RCMP positions in Nunavut, which includes regular RCMP officers, civilians, and public servants. Are all of these positions filled? If not, how many vacancies are there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently at the "V" Division of the RCMP of Nunavut, there are a total, as I stated and as Mr. Keyootak mentioned, 162 positions and there are 10 vacancies. The vacancies include 4 regular members, 2 special constables, 2 civilian members, and 2 public servants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. We are on Law Enforcement. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

>> *Laughter*

I'm sorry; Mr. Chairman. The minister just listed off the number vacancies

within the RCMP. Would she be able to repeat that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ten vacancies are four regular members, two special constables, two civilian members, and two public servants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next questions are going to be regarding the special constables. I thought these positions had ceased to exist a while ago. Have they been recreated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we say “regular members” we mean just a regular RCMP member, and special constables are usually individuals who are specialized within the RCMP division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. I would like to follow up on a comment the minister had made in response to Mr. Keyootak’s questions.

Last year, we had approved one-time funding of \$2.8 million to replace eight RCMP staff housing units. The investment would save the RCMP

tremendous amounts of maintenance costs. I didn’t quite catch what you had said. Had you indicated that these eight units had been replaced? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (Ms. Angnakak): Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I stated to Mr. Keyootak, the \$2.8 million for RCMP accommodations, the funding we were supposed to get 70-30, so 70 percent from the federal government and 30 percent that we were to come up with... or the other way around.

Because the federal government had lapsed their funding dollar amount for that year, we had to take this out of the budget because the federal government could not give us their portion of the money for the housing. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you for that, minister. What exactly happened to that \$2.8 million that we had approved last year that was then not spent on purchasing or replacing RCMP staff housing? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We will push the federal government and Justice Canada to...we will reapply for this \$2.8 million so that we can get staff housing for the RCMP. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. I would like to return to a topic that we discussed last year. Two years ago the Department of Justice requested new funding for the RCMP to replace radios. Last year when I followed up on those funds that were approved, the minister indicated that they were still undergoing the procurement process. I would like to ask if that has been completed and if the Department of Justice had purchased those new radio systems. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We're hoping that we will have that contract signed before March 31, 2020. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. What I'm hearing is that last year you requested \$2.8 million for new housing, the year before that an additional X amount of dollars to replace radios, and neither of those have been completed. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, neither of them has been completed, but as I stated, with the \$2.8 million for RCMP staff housing, the federal government has not committed, so that project is on hold. The radio one, we're working towards trying to finalize a contract signed by

March 31, 2020. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Moving on, the minister had indicated that there are 162 RCMP positions or sorry, the business case indicates that there are 162 positions. This is the same amount that was in last year's business case, so I'm assuming that the figure does not include the additional positions that the RCMP is requesting. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, the positions remain the same and hopefully, if this budget gets passed for 2020-21, we will have an extra 11 positions. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My next question is regarding holding cells. Over the years there has been a number of video footage that has been accessed through ATIPP. One thing I did notice that all the videos had in common was that there was no audio. My next question is: why is it that there are no audio recordings in holding cells? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I don't have that level of detail of information for the member, but I can certainly find out.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. That's appreciated. The reason why I bring up the audio in holding cells is that whenever there's an occurrence that happens while someone is under arrest, it's typically because there are some allegations against officers and without the audio in those holding cells, it's very difficult to determine what actually happened. I would like to ask the minister that going forward, any new recording equipment in holding cells will include audio recordings. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To the member, I can't commit to that. That would have to be reviewed. There would have to be some research and study done whether or not or how much it would actually cost to change all our audio and video equipment. We have multiple facilities in Nunavut, so it would be a huge request to this House for additional funding to change those. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I hadn't requested that all audiovisual equipment be replaced; I just requested that going forward, let's say, new detachments are constructed or equipment does eventually get replaced, the new surveillance equipment would also include audio. I would like to pose that question again to the minister.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We will take that into consideration. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): He is done. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) My first question is about this Special Victims Unit mentioned on page 62 and the status update says that it's fully operational. It has been operating, I think, since September. I know there are a number of investigations they're working on. What is the Special Victims Unit focusing on at the moment? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I missed the last part of your question because I was on a different channel. If you could ask the question again. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) My question was: what things is the Special Victims Unit focusing on, what types of investigations? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Special Victims Unit was formed in the fall of 2019 and they focus on sex crimes involving children and sex crimes with online digital elements. Sex crimes involving children and those online aspects have steadily increased across Canada in the past several years. For this reason, the creation of this specialized team was necessary to protect Nunavummiut. We will continue to work with government and law enforcement partners across Canada to keep our children and our most vulnerable citizens safe. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The Special Victims Unit is based here in Iqaluit, if I'm correct. How do they decide which communities to focus on or whether they're going to travel? I guess I'm asking: who sets the mandate for the Special Victims Unit? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The RCMP sets the mandate. The "V" division works with the communities across Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) On page 63 it mentions the Umingmak Centre. My understanding of the Umingmak Centre is that it's

supposed to support child victims and children in different ways. Are there any plans for additional centres of this type across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Because this is a new program, the children or individuals, especially children who are from the other communities, are sent here to Iqaluit to participate in the Umingmak Centre. This is a pilot project between different departments and if this pilot project is a successful project, hopefully we can have it more in the communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) If it's a pilot project, it implies that there's a timeline in terms of how long it's going to run. When will the pilot project be completed and when will the department know if it's a success or not? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There is no deadline for this pilot project and we're just one of the partners in the program itself. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) If there is no deadline, when will

the department be able to evaluate this project that it's a partner in, in terms of looking whether additional centres of this type would be beneficial across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Department of Justice does not evaluate this program. It falls under another department and the other partners that are involved, so the department does not do the evaluation of this program. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I find that a bit surprising. I mean it's about supporting child victims and children who have witnessed a crime. Who is going to evaluate the work of this centre and whether it's a success or not? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I don't know that information, but I can find out for the member. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. Also on page 63 it mentions the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation providing money to assist Inuit applicants to get into the

RCMP. I think this is great to see. I know that this isn't money from the Department of Justice and it's going to the RCMP, but does the department know how much money has been accessed to train or to help prepare Inuit applicants to become RCMP officers? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The RCMP is working in collaboration with Makigiaqta and that project falls with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. I don't have that dollar amount. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I mean it is right here in the business plan, it's on page 63 of your business plan and you don't know how big of a commitment they got from Makigiaqta. I request the minister to look into that and maybe get back to the committee at a later date. It would be useful information to see how much money it takes to assist one Inuit applicant to become an RCMP officer because I think we need more. It's a good investment of money if we can increase the number of Inuit officers.

It's my understanding that a pretty big change happened to RCMP based in Nunavut in that their postings were changed from three-year postings to two-year postings recently. I wonder if the minister could confirm that for the committee. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Honestly I don't know why they changed from three years to two years. I know that there are times when our RCMP officers get burnt out and usually RCMP officers are posted in a community for a maximum of two years, with the possibility of an extension for a third or fourth year, and it depends on the RCMP officer themselves, but I can get the information for the member. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) It's concerning to see it going from three years to two years. We want them to be staying for longer. In my home community, we get new officers it seems we just have time to learn their names and then they're gone and then there's another officer that comes in.

In terms effective policing it's concerning from a community perspective to see these postings getting shorter and shorter. Especially, if they are getting burnout or if they're getting PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the violent crime they are dealing with or the high workload.

In terms of the reason for this change thanks to the minister for committing to look into that and I think at this point I don't have any further questions other than to thank the RCMP for briefing regular members on an annual basis it's been very helpful for myself. That's just a comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Are you done? Ms. Towntongie you are next.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I just have one question on page 62. The second bullet, priorities for 2019-2020 (interpretation) states that the RCMP will support efforts to continue suicide prevention training and education. The RCMP is a partner in the Nunavut suicide prevention strategy implementation committee which allows them to work together collaboratively with other stakeholders.

When we say smaller communities or bigger communities, we always look at all of the communities. Whenever the court attends the communities, we always know that sometimes that person who has been charged ends up committing suicide. So the police are involved in the Embrace Life Council and they are part of working together with them to prevent suicide and they also work with partners and they are also committed to making available mental health first aid for members across Nunavut.

What are you thinking about and planning to the future before the court system arrives to the community? What services are going to be available to the offenders? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for the question. When an individual has been charged and is awaiting court usually the community justice specialist or the community justice outreach worker works with the individuals so

that they meet with them on a regular basis to ensure that:

1. They know that they are going to court soon,
2. If they need assistance in counselling, and
3. To make sure that they're abiding the law and staying out of trouble so that by the time they go to court their offences are not as bad.

We do work with individuals to make sure that they are ok and that our justice staff ensure that these individuals they know that they're being taken care of and they know, they explain to them they make sure that the offenders know what the charges are and they work with the individuals to prepare them for court, they are advised that the offenders can make changes in your lives so that you don't have to eventually, hopefully that they can fix the problem or repair themselves physically and mentally and abide by the law so that they don't potentially have to go to jail. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on the list is Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My questions are along the lines of response times. When a person calls the RCMP, how long would it take for... ? What's a good response time according to the department? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I don't have that level of detail of information the

member is looking for, but I can assure that when a call comes to the RCMP station, the RCMP is already aware of the situation while you're on the phone with the individual. While the frontline staff are on the phone with the individual, the RCMP is already working to try to get to the individual. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. What happens especially on the weekends? I know that the calls do get referred to Iqaluit. Sometimes it usually takes half an hour to 40 minutes before a place is responded to. What is the procedure? You might have different calls from the same community. Do you respond to them as they come in? Sometimes when the calls go to Iqaluit, you have different communities calling in. Do you go by the time they called from different communities or does the call get responded to at that one community if there are two or three calls, if you understand what I'm saying? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for the question. If it is afterhours and the individual calls the RCMP, the call will come to the "V" division here in Iqaluit and there are always two people who answer phones. If the frontline staff are on the phone with one person and another person is trying to call the RCMP, there's always somebody available for that second call. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If a community is really busy all the time like every day, would that community be recognized as needing more RCMP in the community or how does that work? Thank you. That's it for me.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That information is used and tracked to ensure that... The RCMP "V" division here in Iqaluit will use that information to decide whether or not a community needs an extra RCMP officer. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) When it comes to the Civilian Complaints Review Commission, and last year this was mentioned of how the operation is working, my question is... Well, before I move to my questions, since you said that the RCMP is the oversight body that exists right now for non-serious incidents and we were talking to them again about maybe expanding their mandate to serious incidents within Nunavut. Could you give us an update of how this is working now? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When there's a serious incident... Just one moment.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Sorry, Mr. Kaernek. I think your question comes to civilian oversight. Am I

correct? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): He agreed. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Department of Justice right now is working on... Our civilian oversights are handled by the Calgary Police and the Ontario Police, but the Department of Justice is right now researching other ways to do civilian oversight. Rather than having an RCMP investigate an RCMP, we're looking at other options.

There are provinces and territories [where] they create a committee of non-RCMP officers and some other options. There are organizations like that within Canada, so we are looking at options to see what best fits for Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for that explanation. Is there one in Nunavut and which community are they in? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There is no civilian oversight in Nunavut. We are contracted with the Ottawa Police and the Calgary Police that do our civilian oversight. There is nothing in Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Could the Department of Justice create such a body, because of course my constituents do want to make complaints but they don't know who to turn to. Could the Department of Justice create such a body here in Nunavut? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I stated earlier, the Department of Justice is looking at options for civilian oversight, and if a community member has concerns or issues regarding the RCMP within their community, there is a number that they can call and we find that number and provide that information the members. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for your response. Moving on to another subject, in your business plan, (interpretation ends) on page 63, "The RCMP assisted the Nunavut Elder's Society in developing the educational pamphlet on elder abuse and elder financial abuse in Nunavut and will continue to work with the society." Where is this society located? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The RCMP works on education and provides assistance and gives information to our elders, and the elders committee is based here in Iqaluit.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'll go back. In English, (interpretation ends) 12 months ago Justice was looking into options for the RCMP oversight. What progress has been made over the last year, and when will the minister be able to update the Assembly on a final verdict? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This issue is very important to our government and for everyone in this House as well.

Although it may be easier to contract with an existing entity, we want to make sure that it is the right decision for our communities so that we include our Inuit societal values and take into consideration our culture and our heritage.

We have heard from the Yukon who informs us that they are pleased with their contracting services with the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team.

Sorry interpreters for speaking so fast.

We want to make sure that we are not duplicating a southern model that may not work for us. So we are doing research and we are working towards creating or changing our civilian oversight member.

We are hoping to create, to come up

with the best option for Nunavummiut.
Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am looking for that information, but I cannot find it. It seems it is not in your business plan. How are you going to create that entity? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When I first became Minister of Justice, there were a few things that I wanted to see implemented in the Department of Justice. So that there are pieces of legislation in Nunavut that we adopted from the Northwest Territories, and one of things that I was hearing from community members and mayors is the civilian oversight that happens within Nunavut because our civilians oversight is handled by the Ottawa police and the Calgary police, it is contracted.

Some of the suggestions we received was creating, an example is creating a civilian oversight that would have possibly employee of the Department of Justice. Possibly a lawyer from Legal Services Board, probably from a community.

That is one example of how we could create a civilian oversight because a lot of the things that I heard was why does the RCMP investigate another RCMP? That is why the Department of Justice is trying to find different ways to create this civilian oversight.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you very much for that information. In recruiting and training have you considered including the by-law officers who are employed by the hamlet council? Do you have any plans with the by-law officers in the communities? That is my last question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Or, recruiting them to become RCMP members. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We are always recruiting in the communities. We go to career fairs, go to the schools, we go to career fairs. There was on just recently here in Iqaluit.

We approach the high school students before they graduate, we approach those that have post-secondary school, or we assist those who want to become RCMP officers. The by-law officers in our communities they are employees of the Hamlet of those communities, but they work closely with the RCMP.

We are always... there is nothing to say that our staff or our recruiting staff has not asked these members. Being an RCMP is a tough position, just like being a caseworker in our correctional facilities.

Definitely we have asked by-law officers if they want to become RCMP officers but we can't force people to become RCMP members. We can't force individuals to become MLAs. We push and we promote but we can't force people to become RCMP members. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Okay. Thank you very much. Law Enforcement. E-5. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$44,984,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Okay. The next one is Lawyer Support Services. E-6. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,550,000. Are there any questions? Adam. Excuse me. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Looking at the business plan on page 66, one of the priorities under the current fiscal year is to coordinate with the Nunavut Law School Program to provide articling opportunities for program graduates. The status indicates that the directors of the division are developing job descriptions for articling students, as well as a formalized articling program.

I have a couple of questions on this topic. The first is that as job descriptions are being developed, the way I read it is that means that these don't exist and there have never been articling students within these divisions. Is that correct? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Through you I will ask Ms. Silk to answer the question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Silk.

Ms. Silk: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The legal and constitutional law has had articling

students over years. The articling program only really galvanized about 10 years ago. It is not unusual for us to have one or two articling students per year. Office space and the need to have lawyers with significant call to supervise the articling students was one impediment in the past. That is no longer the case.

We did have an articling student job description, but this program brought to our attention the need to develop a job description for summer students as well, and we took the opportunity to update the articling student job evaluation. Both job descriptions have now been approved by job evaluation and we are going to convene a committee with Legal Registries, Legislation and other parts of the Department of Justice that could provide a valuable articling experience so that ideally, between one and four, or possibly more students could come through and complete fulsome their compete articles in the Department of Justice.

To date, students have had to do part of their articles with the Department of Justice and then do part with the Legal Services Board or with the Public Prosecutions Office, and we are advocating for a complete articling experience within our department. It is well underway. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Ms. Silk, for that information. It is my understanding that as lawyers, law is a very specialized profession. They don't utilize the same pay scale as most GN employees. My

first question is: will articling students be paid using the same lawyer pay scale system? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just to seek clarification; yes, the articling students will be paid on the lawyer pay grade system. My next question is: as the job evaluation has been completed, would you be able to provide us with information as to what pay grade that articling students would be paid at? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As Ms. Silk stated earlier the job descriptions for the articling students, there will be through the Department of Human Resources there will be a pay scale specifically just for articling students. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The second part of my question was when job evaluation had approved this or made a decision what was that job evaluation had determine that these articling students would be paid at for example step plus grade level sort of thing. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Through you, I'll ask Ms. Silk to answer the question. She is the deputy minister and she would know the pay scale. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Silk.

Ms. Silk: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The evaluation that occurred was for both job descriptions. The articling student job was not given a pay range because it is a set pay range that is part of the lawyer's grid. The summer student was not, I may stand to be corrected but I think it was pay range 12. The articling student pay is in the low mid-80s. This is a grid that was set by cabinet back in 2005. It has gone through subsequent raises as the public service in general has received raises. We are aware of the need to potentially review that. But it is still competitive when compared with Legal Services Board or the PPSC. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thanks again, Ms. Silk, for that information, I'm glad to hear that it will be at a competitive rate. My next question is: as the law program will be graduating next spring, when will the Department of Justice take on these articling students? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Hopefully the day

after graduation. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Towtongie

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The question I would like to ask is: how many lawyers can speak Inuktitut and how many cannot speak Inuktitut? In your business plan it states that lawyers are going to be taught a higher class of Inuktitut. How many Inuk lawyers do you have, and how many lawyers can speak Inuktitut? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Currently the Department of Justice does not have an Inuktitut-speaking lawyer, but we do encourage the lawyers that we do have to take Inuktitut training. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) On page 66 it mentions the priority for this year is to reduce external costs spent on litigation. How much does the department usually spend on litigation in a fiscal year externally? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We don't have that level of detail of information that Mr. Main is looking for. We can provide it for him. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I just request that you direct whatever correspondence to the chair and not to me; it would be easier.

On the Legislation Division or legislation staff there are 13 positions listed on the organizational chart. What is the current level of staffing with the Legislation Division? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under the Department of Justice under legislation, approved positions, we have 13 and we have four vacancies, and the Nunavut Inuit that are hired under legislation is five. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The reason I asked about this is it keeps on coming up under different departments and various ministers will say, "Well, we would like to work on this piece of legislation, but you know, the Department of Justice, their legislative drafters or whatnot only have so much." It seems to be, anecdotally anyway from different ministers, that there's a bottleneck at the Legislation Division here. I see a reference to devolution, the legislative drafting and translation services required for devolution. Is there any plan to bring on more staff and create more positions under legislation? (interpretation) Thank

you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Possibly with more legislation that needs to be changed or drafted or amended to fit Nunavummiut, there is a possibility of an increase. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Keyootak. Sorry. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to get your permission to go back to law enforcement, if I may.

Chairperson: I'm sorry that page was already covered. We're now on E-6. Lawyer Support Services. Mr. Qamaniq, do you have any questions under that division?

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I don't have any questions to this.

Chairperson: Okay. I have no more names on the list for Lawyer Support Services, E-6. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,550,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: We will go on to E-7. Registries and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$14,000,237. Any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) When the court comes to town, one of the most important functions for

my constituents is provided by the interpreters. It's my understanding that you require a very high calibre of interpreter. You can't just pull anybody off the street to interpret court proceedings. I just want to understand if the department has access to the quality and the quantity of the interpreters needed for that type of work. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The availability of court interpreters is fundamental to ensure access to justice. The number of available interpreters has decreased and court services have significant challenges booking contractors, but the current Interpreter/Translator Program at Nunavut Arctic College helps to build capacity of interpreters, but the demand for interpreters continues to be so high. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I had heard about that situation, I forget from who, and it was concerning because, as the minister mentioned, it is very important that people can communicate freely in the court.

When you look at the Interpreter/Translator Program at Nunavut Arctic College, the number of students and the number of vacancies or the need that the court has, are the courses that are being provided going to be sufficient to provide this service for the Department of Justice or do you need to look at increasing the number of

students and getting more of these skilled interpreter/translators? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: We presently don't have quorum, so we have to wait.

Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Nunavut Arctic College is the only entity which is training interpreters in Nunavut. Unfortunately the number of graduating students will not meet the current demands. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Hearing that is concerning and if the minister can have discussions with Arctic College, it would be good to see. If I understand correctly, they are one of the highest paying entities, the court interpreters.

My last question is under (interpretation ends) registries. On the registries side of things, it was my understanding based on previous years that there are certain types of information that cannot be accessed from outside of Iqaluit and that you actually have to walk into the office here and file a request, let's say, for land titles, or I forget which information it was. My question is: can individuals access the Registries Division information from outside of the capital city? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We don't have that information, but we can make sure that, through you, the committee gets the information. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I'll just end with a comment that I think it's important that the department provide access as much as possible because for business owners, for different purposes, it is important to have access to legal registry information. (interpretation) That's it for me. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I have two questions. The first question is: how many positions within the department's Court Services Division are currently vacant? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We're just trying to find that information.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under the legal registries we have 11 positions approved and three are vacant and three are filled by Inuit. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister, for that response. My second question just with a comment, looking at the business plan page 70 it says, "Update the rules of the court." I have a situation where an elder went to court and he was asked, "Do you tell the whole truth, nothing but the truth, and the whole truth?" The elder looked and said, "No. I can only tell you my truth." When I saw that, maybe that would update the rules of court.

>> *Laughter*

The question is, the department's priorities for this year, 2019-2020, was to explore the feasibility of adding one legally trained Justice of the Peace in each region. I would like to know what challenges have been identified in achieving this objective. My final question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie, for making me smile. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Through you, I'll ask Ms. Silk to answer the question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Silk.

Ms. Silk: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The challenges with staffing or placing a legally trained Justice of the Peace in each region are the same as we find with placing lawyers in each of the regions. Lawyers and legal counsel positions are very difficult to staff. In this case we're looking at a person of those qualities as well as the

right qualities to adjudicate legal claims. Then there are the issues around housing, office space or space in the communities because currently our Justices of the Peace are at the courthouse. That's where they're located. There's a multitude of challenges and they are very similar to those that face just staffing any kind of professional or paraprofessional positions in the communities, but as I understand it, it still is under examination. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I only have one question under (interpretation ends) Registries and Court Services. (interpretation) How is the (interpretation ends) *Family Abuse Intervention Act* (interpretation) included? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I kind of missed the question because of the interpretation. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If he could repeat the question.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq: Under Registries and Court Services, how is the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* included under this program? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Justice of the Peace uses the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Qirngnuq, are you done? I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Registries and Court Services. E-7. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$14,237,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turn the page. (interpretation ends) E-8. Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$37,819,000. Questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The first topic I would like to bring up...well, first I would like to return to a topic that we discussed last year and that's repeat offenders. There are a lot of good people in Nunavut and it is unfortunate we still have really high rates of violence and crime. I presume it's the minority who are causing the majority of these crimes. As we have been discussing this topic of repeat offenders for a number of years, I would like to ask if the minister has begun tracking repeat offenders. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Government of Nunavut, the Department of Justice is not tracking repatriation of individuals. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thanks for using the correct term. I had forgotten "repatriate" or whatnot.

As I mentioned, we have been bringing this up for a few years now. My next question is: how many more years do we have to continue raising our concerns before the Department of Justice starts tracking this? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Government of Nunavut, the Department of Justice, we are working on trying to gather databases on repatriation of inmates and recidivism in Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My next question is: come this time next year when we bring up the issue of repeat offenders and recidivism, will the minister be able to provide us with any sort of information? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That is the department's goal. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that

response. My next line of questioning is going to be in relation to community corrections, whose role it is to provide supervision, support, and programming to adult and youth offenders who are on probation and under conditional sentences. My first question is: how many community corrections officers are there and are they in each community? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There are 21 community corrections officers. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My next question is: of those 21 positions, is there at least one community corrections officer currently filled or are these positions currently filled in each community? Sorry, let me restate that. My question is: is there at least one filled position in each community? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. No, not all the positions are filled in the communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My next question is: for communities that do not currently have community corrections officers, how does the Department of Justice ensure

supervision of people under probation or under conditional sentences in those communities? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For those communities that don't have community corrections officers, the community closest to that community, the community corrections officer will visit that community to follow up with individuals. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My next question is a little bit about if you would be able to explain to us about the community corrections officers' roles. How do they ensure the supervision of individuals on probation and conditional sentences? Do they meet with these individuals weekly, monthly, daily? That's the sort of information I'm looking for. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Since 2016 Corrections has been utilizing a case management program and it's now seeing the benefits of using this program. This program delivery is labour intensive for community corrections officers and requires an increase in capacity in order to meet the needs of an average number of 44 clients per community corrections officer. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for that information. I do hope that this case management system will be able to assist you in tracking recidivism.

Continuing on my previous question, how often would a community corrections officer meet with an individual client? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the individual and the severity of their charges or the severity of their crime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm glad to hear that there are varying levels depending on the severity of the crimes. Would the minister be able to elaborate a bit further, for example, individuals on probation or under conditional sentence who are at a low or high level of severity? How often would those individuals meet with community corrections officers? Thank you.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson...or Mr. Chairman. Sorry. An example is an individual who has a low severity crime who reports to community corrections officers could be

once a week or once a month or low individuals would probably be once a month and for those that are high in their criminal charges could be once a week. As they progress and they show that they're doing a lot better, they're meeting with their probation officer, they're receiving counselling as recommended by the corrections officer, their meetings will become less and less. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I'm getting tired.

My next question is: how do community corrections officers ensure that the clients are maintaining their conditional sentences? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Basically it's based on the individual reporting. Thank you, Madam Chairperson...Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to return to the topic of registered sex offenders and registered sex offenders who have offences against children. Do those individuals report to community corrections officers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson or Mr. Chairman. Yes, they do report to community corrections and if they plan to move to another community, they're supposed to let the community corrections officer know where they're moving, what community they're moving to, for how long, and the exact address as to where that individual is going to be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a few questions on this line of topic. I understand that registered sex offenders, especially those with offences against minors, have very severe conditions placed on them. My next question is: how does the community corrections officer ensure that these conditional sentences are being met? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, as I stated earlier, it's self-reporting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's self-reporting, so these individuals who are on probation or under conditional sentences would never be determined if they were in breach unless the individual explicitly stated it to the community corrections officer. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone.

Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a community corrections officer feels that a breach has been made by a sexual offender or the breach of probation, they will fill out the paperwork, contact the court, and contact the RCMP to serve a summons on the client. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (Ms. Angnakak): Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Returning to one of my oral questions and the response to one of my written questions, the fact that to date none of the registered offenders, including registered sexual offenders with offences against minors, have never been charged in breach of their conditional sentences, I would like to recommend that the minister commit to giving the department direction to strengthening the role of the community corrections officers in ensuring that conditional sentences are being met.

I do so because there are a number of high-risk sex offenders, meaning these individuals have repeatedly made sexual offences. These people have done it before and they continue to do it, and they're under probation and under conditional sentences and there's no way that the correctional officers are ensuring that those conditions are being met, from what I understand. Once again I would just like to ask the minister to commit to ensuring that community corrections officers are doing as much as possible to ensure that these conditional sentences are being met. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I can commit. I have the utmost faith in our community corrections workers and they're hard-working employees. If they feel that an individual has breached probation, there are guidelines and policies that they have to follow to ensure that these individuals, if they breach their probation, are reported to the RCMP so that a summons can be served on these clients. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I have two questions. My first question is, this past winter, I believe it was close to Christmas, inmates had to be relocated out of Iqaluit and sent south to southern institutions. Is that the first time that has happened, or is that a common practice close to Christmas? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There was an incident that happened on December 21, and the Department of Justice transferred 30 inmates from the Baffin Correctional Centre to other correctional facilities in the south. The choice to move these individuals from certain facilities is done on a regular basis and it is not unusual practice for corrections. The move ensures the safety and wellbeing of inmates and staff and staff of the facility. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I was actually called by an individual who was incarcerated and sent south. When they were going to be sent south, they were not informed, and when they were sent to a southern institution from Iqaluit, they left without anything and they normally had a few personal belongings, but they didn't bring them, and of course they have human rights, and it would be nice to see something like their personal effects with them.

If that is going to happen again, because I did get a call from one inmate, and it would be nice to set up something where they could at least know ahead of time and they would like to see a proper way of being handled if it is possible to set up something like for those inmates. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Keyootak for your question. I am not aware of the situation, but I will definitely talk to the Corrections Division. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In March 2019 we had agreed around \$1 million to add supplementary appropriation funding for correctional facilities overage on permanent staff overtime and casual salaries. What steps are being taken to reduce the amount of overtime and casual salaries in Nunavut's correctional facilities so that we could try to reduce the amount of money that is

being pulled into that? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Department of Justice is, as I stated earlier, with the past, if our budget for 2020-21 is passed, we will have the case correctional training program that will train 10 more Inuit to work in our correctional facilities, and we are always looking to encourage our staff to ensure that they stay in our correctional facilities and we are doing an audit for efficiency. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My first question, they state in their (interpretation ends) main estimates (interpretation) that Inuit cultural skills program is available. I would first like to ask if it's used in all communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I didn't understand the question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Nakashuk, please clarify your question.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) In the main estimates it states that Inuit cultural skills program is available for inmates, or inmates that have been put into communities. I am wondering how many communities are actually

running this kind of program. Is it every community? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. All of our facilities in Nunavut have this program. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Does that mean smaller communities do not have it? It is only these correctional centres that run the program? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, that is correct. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The reason why I ask that question, what about the corrections officers? Not all communities have those types of employees. Are they working as hired contractors? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Community corrections officers... Those communities that do not have community corrections officers are supported by community corrections

officers that are closest to their communities. If a community, say an example, Kugluktuk, if they did not have a community corrections officer, the community corrections officer from Cambridge Bay will visit Kugluktuk to meet with those clients. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation) On page 8 of the minister letter regarding the annual report on corrections, it mentions that due to the ransomware the COMS database is unavailable.

I guess the question is this the only system that is unavailable or offline because of ransomware? I just want to know the impacts on the department, and when things will be fixed. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I apologize. Maybe I was not clear about my question. The COMS database is offline, when will it be back online, and what other impacts to the department happened as a result of ransomware. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With the ransomware, we are doing everything offline. We are doing everything manually. We are trying to keep up with the data so that once the computers are up and running the information can be inputted into the database. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation) Do you have a timeline for when that would be completed?

I will jump ahead to my next question which is regarding inmate work programs. The letter, the same page, it only mentions Baffin Correctional Centre. Are inmates at the Rankin Inlet facility also doing a work program? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The inmates at the Rankin Inlet facility do town crew with the Rankin Inlet Housing Association. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I guess that is the thing with asking two questions in one. Can the minister answer my other question about when the COMS database will back online? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm sorry I didn't answer the first question. We are working with the Department of Community and Government Services to ensure that it is up and running as quickly as possible. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) My final question; on the last page of the letter there is a reference to \$3.4 million over two years. It says "the settlement agreement fund."

I just to clarify: is that the \$50 million fund that is shared between the Nunavut government and the federal government? I just want a clarification on that, and this program sounds very exciting and beneficial, so kudos to the department on getting this up and running. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just like the member, I am excited to know that we will be trying to train more Inuit into our correctional facilities. The Settlement Agreement Fund is with the Department of Human Resources of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: I don't have any more names on my list. Corrections. E-9. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$37,819,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: We will go to the next page. E-9. Community Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,042,000. Any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Just a clarification from the minister, in the opening comments, the second page, \$234,000 to support the repatriation of five community justice outreach workers, why does it cost \$234,000 extra to do the work of community justice work over and beyond what the hamlet were being paid for these five positions? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm just trying to find my notes. The community justice outreach workers funded through the municipalities and the cost of the repatriation includes... . It costs more to employ public servants, and the increase of that cost was for pension and benefits to become public servants. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) It is my understanding that part of the reason why hamlets wanted to get out of this is that they felt they were being underfunded by the government, so it appears from this that they had a point in that the government was not providing sufficient funding to the hamlets to employ community justice outreach workers. I will leave that there as a comment. No further questions.

(interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I only have one comment. It was brought to my attention by two community justice committee members from two communities. They inform me that their honorarium have not increased in the last 10 to 5 years. I am wondering: is there any plan in place to make sure with the responsibilities that these community justice committees are taking on family interventions, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and other areas has there been considerations to increase their honorarium. My final question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes. We are looking into increasing their honorarium. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I just want clarity on page 78 of your business plan. Bullet two it says a learning module to community justice workers to support victim services. I'm mistaken here. It was somewhere. How many staff are there under victim assistance worker? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Is the member asking under the Victims Assistance

Program? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes, he agrees. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We can find out that information for the members. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. How many more years are the communities going to be waiting for justice workers? That will be my last question. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If the member is asking about the community justice outreach workers, we are hoping to have most of them back to the Government of Nunavut within the next two years. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Rumbolt

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under the rules of the Assembly we are not supposed to go pass 6 o'clock today without permission from the committee. So, I move that we remain in Committee of the Whole until we conclude with the Department of Justice.

Chairperson: There is a motion on the floor and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Motion is passed. Mr. Kaernerck, are you finished? I don't have any other names

on my list.

>> *Applause*

>> *Laughter*

Chairperson: Mr. Rumbolt.

Community Justice. E-9. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,042,000. Agreed?

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It seems we have concluded with the Department of Justice. I move to report progress at this time. Thank you.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Anybody opposed? Don't want to stay here longer? Motion is passed. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the witness table. Thank you. I will rise to report progress. There we go.

Chairperson: Go to E-3. Department Summary. Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$127,660,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Justice?

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Ms. Angnakak.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Minister Ehaloak, would you like to give some closing comments? Minister Ehaloak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members for their questions and very important questions. I am sure all Nunavummiut are very happy to hear some of their concerns are addressed.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 39 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Department of Justice who worked diligently to prepare the documents that I have received so that I can give you the information that you need so that you can come up with these questions for Nunavut. I want to take this time to applaud the departmental staff and I just want to say "thank you." Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Keyootak. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed.
The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills.
(interpretation) Let's proceed.
(interpretation ends) 22. *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 39
- Bill 40
- Bill 41
- Bill 42

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 6, at 9:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:05*

