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**3rd Session**

**4th Assembly**

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Official Report

**DAY 38**

**Tuesday, June 7, 2016**

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**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable George Qulaut, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. George Qulaut**  
(Amittuq)

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. George Kuksuk**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage;  
Minister of Languages; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness*

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Aivilik)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister of Health; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention*

**Hon. Johnny Mike**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

**Tom Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

**Joe Enook**  
(Tununiq)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Hon. George Hickers**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation*

**Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**David Joanasie**  
(South Baffin)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration*

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, June 7, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Mr. Qirngnuq, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut, members, ministers, and (interpretation ends) Premier. (interpretation) Welcome to the House.

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 132 – 4(3):  
Hivuliqtikhanut Supervisors'  
Series Graduation**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give advanced congratulations to the 19 participants of the Hivuliqtikhanut supervisors' series graduation taking place on June 15 here in Iqaluit.

The Hivuliqtikhanut leadership development program aims to strengthen Nunavut's public service and provide the necessary tools and skills to become effective future leaders. This first series, developed specifically for supervisors and managers, had seven modules of three days each held between September 2015 and June 2016. One of the seven modules took place in Arviat last month.

Mr. Speaker, assistant deputy ministers, deputy ministers, and elders were involved throughout the program as guest speakers, offering their insights, knowledge, skills, and abilities.

As I have mentioned, Dalhousie University is reviewing the entire program to determine if the Hivuliqtikhanut leadership development program meets their requirements towards accreditation. It's very exciting for both the participants and staff.

Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes the need to build capacity from within. We are committed to providing training for leadership development and supporting our public servants. Having the skills to develop policies and programs that respond to the government mandate and meet the needs of Nunavummiut is critical to success.



I look forward to congratulating participants from both the emerging leaders and senior managers' series. As we strengthen our employees' leadership capabilities, we will see a direct result in the quality and proficiency of our programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Mr. George Kuksuk.

**Minister's Statement 133 – 4(3):  
Review and Reform of Income  
Assistance**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the release of the *Report on the Review and Reform of Income Assistance and Economic Development*. The report is a joint effort between my department and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. This past fall, we completed public consultations in all 25 communities and the input we received informed the content of the report.

On behalf of Family Services, I would like to thank the communities that welcomed us and the hundreds of Nunavummiut who participated and expressed their vision for a better, more supportive income assistance system. Your ideas, perspectives, and stories continue to provide the guidance needed as we step forward together.

Mr. Speaker, during the consultations, Nunavummiut brought forth many ideas to strengthen our programs and services. The *Report on the Review and Reform of Income Assistance and Economic Development* builds on what we heard and proposes ways we can improve income assistance and economic development across the territory.

Importantly, we want to hear what Nunavummiut think about the changes to our programs that we propose. In the next few weeks, my department will be asking for further feedback from individuals and organizations on the report and the proposed reforms.

Mr. Speaker, under *Sivumut Abluqta*, our government committed to review and reform income assistance to ensure that those who need help receive it while investing in economic development to secure a prosperous future for all Nunavummiut. We look forward to fulfilling this commitment and sharing our progress in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Minister's Statement 134 – 4(3):  
Review of Economic Development  
to Support Nunavummiut**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everyone. I, too, would like to add on my colleague's comments.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation and, as he said, the Department of Family Services have joint leadership on the *Sivumut Abluqta* priority: Reform of Income Assistance. As a result, we have been collaborating in developing the “*Review and Reform of Income Assistance and Economic Development*” that will be tabled in the House today.

This excellent report, which builds on extensive community engagement, articulates proposals for reform to reduce dependence and support communities through economic development as well as identifying the next steps to deliver on the proposed reforms.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation will focus on supporting job creation, innovation, and entrepreneurship; removing barriers to employment; and simplifying and streamlining economic development programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, as a territory, we have made great strides forward in economic development over the past 17 years. Nevertheless, there is much still to be done. This report is a further step in creating a strong and prosperous territory for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Minister’s Statement 135 – 4(3):  
Iqaluit Nunavut Community  
Aquatic Monitoring Program**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for giving the Department of Environment an opportunity, people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung, my fellow community members.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my department is proud to share that we have recently completed the Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program in Iqaluit. The Iqaluit N-CAMP trained participants how to collect arctic char biological data for the purpose of fisheries monitoring. There were eight participants that completed both classroom training in Iqaluit and on-the-land training at Sukanga Lake.

The Nunavut Literacy Council also participated in the training and fieldwork. This group is working with the N-CAMP team to ensure that the program fully incorporates *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and improves how knowledge is shared among participants.

The N-CAMP provides communities with the training necessary to engage in aquatic monitoring at the local level and empowers participants to seek employment in related fields.

Mr. Speaker, my department is happy to report that some of the graduates from this camp are in the process of being selected to work for DFO this summer on arctic char sampling in the Sylvia Grinnell River. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Paul Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 136 – 4(3):  
Piqqusilirivvik Polar Bear Hunt**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and fellow residents of Igloolik. Thank you.

I am pleased to be able to rise in the House today to announce a successful polar bear hunt undertaken by the instructors and students of Piqqusilirivvik.

Piqqusilirivvik received a polar bear tag for the current program. The instructors and students went on a 10-day land program that included land skills, fishing, and a polar bear harvest.

Mr. Speaker, the hunt was documented in photos and on video and Piqqusilirivvik will be creating learning materials from these to use in future programming.

The meat was shared with the community and an elders' feast was held at the centre. The students learned how to clean and dry the hide and it will be used to teach traditional clothing-making.

Mr. Speaker, by providing the opportunity for students to be immersed in their own culture, language, and heritage, they will be able to practise the skills that were used by our ancestors for thousands of years. This practice will enable them to survive and thrive in

Nunavut's challenging climate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 137 – 4(3):  
Information Technology Strategy  
for Nunavut**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give my colleagues an overview of the Information Technology Strategy for Nunavut.

Information Technology, better known as IT, is deeply integrated in the Government of Nunavut's daily business. The Informatics Planning and Services, IPS for short, Division within Community and Government Services (CGS) is the principal 'whole-of-government' informatics service provider for the GN. The IT strategy is designed to fully support and provide value to the government's functions and operations.

I am pleased to report that the first phase of the IT strategy was completed in January of 2016. This process established five priorities which will guide the approach to overall planning, budgeting, analysis, management, and evaluation. The next phase involves developing business plans for each priority area and this is where the specific needs will be identified.

The IPS division will collaborate and strengthen relationships within the GN,

other levels of government, Inuit organizations, and the private sector to implement the plans, develop partnerships for investments in infrastructure, and provide secure connectivity and information management in the long term. The current objective is to have the government's core business network deployed to provide comparable telecommunications services within all 25 communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a long-term strategy and that will require major investment dollars. In the meantime, the IPS division will continue to provide secure information management and find innovative technology solutions to improve existing broadband services across the GN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Minister's Statement 138 – 4(3): NAC Nursing Program Graduates**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to congratulate the graduates of Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) Pre-Nursing and Bachelors of Science of Nursing students on their successful completion of these programs. They have successfully demonstrated their passion and commitment to health care and can be proud of their accomplishment.

Nunavut continues to experience nursing shortages. That is why the Department of Health has been active in providing

scholarships and bursaries for nursing and pre-nursing students at Nunavut Arctic College, encouraging program completion and providing educational incentives.

For the 2015-16 academic year, the Department of Health provided \$100,000 in scholarships and bursaries. Of these, \$18,000 is allocated toward the Queen Elizabeth II scholarships for nursing students where \$3,000 is given to the top six nursing students and \$82,000 is dispensed in bursaries where up to \$5,000 per year is awarded to students in need.

Additionally, the department secured a one-time funding of \$70,000 for the pre-nursing bursary from Health Canada. Health was able to find another funding source and has linked NAC to Indspire so that pre-nursing students can access ongoing funding.

The initiative to support the growth of Nunavut-based health care professionals and strengthen the participation of beneficiaries is showing. On June 2, NAC has graduated six students from the Bachelor of Science of Nursing Program and two beneficiary students from the Pre-nursing Program.

Mr. Speaker, these initiatives support the growth of Nunavut-based health care professionals and strengthen the participation of beneficiaries. Health is committed to educating, graduating, and supporting our nursing students. We look forward to having more Nunavummiut nurses who understand our culture, the unique needs of our people and communities, provide care, and work towards healthy Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 139 – 4(3):  
Music Alive Program in Nunavut**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to speak to my colleagues about inspiring work that has been done through the National Arts Centre Music Alive program in Nunavut.

The Music Alive program works to build knowledge and self-confidence in children and youth through the arts, enrich communities through music-making, [develop] music education skills among educators and teaching musicians, celebrate Inuit culture, and showcase Nunavut artists.

Mr. Speaker, since 2010, the Music Alive program has been reaching out to communities and this year, my department provided \$93,000 to support its activities.

Collaborating with local partners, Music Alive programs were delivered in Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Igloolik, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, and Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask you if you can extend the Minister's Statement. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his ministerial statement. Are there any nays? (interpretation) I don't

hear any nays. Mr. Quassa, please proceed.

**Hon. Paul Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues for giving me the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, in the program this year, there were:

- 25 school music workshops with 300 participants;
- 12 school performances involving 1,500 students and teachers;
- 10 extended teaching musician visits teaching 500 students; and
- 3 instrumental coaching sessions by the National Arts Centre for four Inuksuk High School music students using videoconferencing.

There were performances in six communities involving 15 Nunavut musicians and music students and 10 visiting artists. Seven community workshops were held and 60 individuals participated.

Mr. Speaker, this year, Hayden George, Principal of Kugluktuk High School, received the Principal of Music Award from the Coalition for Music Education in Canada. This award, sponsored by Music Alive Nunavut, provided Kugluktuk High School with \$1,500 to support the school music program.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud to continue supporting this valuable program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more

names on my list. Let us proceed. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 273 – 4(3): Recent Rash of Tires Slashed in Constituency**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Earlier this winter, there was a rash of slashing of tires in one of the neighbourhoods I represent in Iqaluit-Sinaa. These are hard-working people that own their own homes and contribute to our territory. It was rather unfortunate that their winter tires that are very expensive, let alone that you can't even get them here, were slashed.

Some of my constituents called my office enquiring about setting up a neighbourhood watch. I want to make it clear that my office is available to my constituents on this matter any time if they want to organize a meeting to establish a neighbourhood watch in the area. I will do whatever I can to facilitate and help them. I encourage them to keep a sharp eye for any questionable activity in the neighbourhood and alert the authorities.

I will do whatever I can to support your efforts and please call my office and we will work on establishing a meeting and making sure that all neighbourhoods are safe and clear of unnecessary crime. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

#### **Member's Statement 274 – 4(3): Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board Community Engagement Tour**

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Gjoa Havenmiut and Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my concerns regarding the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board's plans for community engagement, which are scheduled to take place this summer.

According to its terms of reference, the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board's mandate is to help guide the direction and activities of the Nutrition North Canada Program and to "ensure that northern residents receive its full benefits."

Mr. Speaker, on May 30, 2016, the advisory board announced its plans for a consultation tour that will take place this summer. Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that the board's consultation tour will include the communities of Baker Lake, Kugaaruk, Pond Inlet, and Iqaluit, although the dates and times for these consultations have yet to be released.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage residents in all of these communities to keep an eye out for that information as it becomes available and to participate in those consultations. Mr. Speaker, it is important that Nunavummiut take this opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the Nutrition North Canada

Program and to ensure that our needs are represented.

Mr. Speaker, I have stood up in this House on numerous occasions to address the issue of food security and the lack of affordable food in Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed to note that the community of Gjoa Haven will not be directly consulted during the advisory board's upcoming tour.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to members.

As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed to note that the community of Gjoa Haven will not be directly consulted during the advisory board's upcoming tour.

I have previously made note of the fact that Gjoa Haven continues to see some of the highest food prices in the territory, as reported in numerous studies, including the 2015 Nunavut Food Price Survey.

Mr. Speaker, I emphasize the importance of comprehensive community consultation regarding food security initiatives, and I hope that the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board will take the opportunity to consult with my

community in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 275 – 4(3):  
Appreciation for Search and  
Rescue**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my gratitude and to share my pride in the capabilities of our search and rescue group.

Mr. Speaker, as all of you are aware and which we all know, our travelling party got lost when the three of us left Iqaluit to travel home. The party consisted of me, my nephew Peter Kakkik, and Adamie, who is my son.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to express my immense appreciation to the people who volunteer to conduct searches. They undertook a lot of work to find us and on behalf of the group I was with, I extend our sincere gratitude. Particularly on behalf of my wife and children, I wish to thank them all.

Mr. Speaker, this experience was quite stressful to me personally, but we did not intentionally lose our way when we got lost.

Mr. Speaker, as a measure of my thankfulness to the searchers and coordinators, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for their dedication and grid searches as part of their search for our party.

Furthermore, I wish to also make this statement: as Inuit inhabiting the traditional lands of our people, the Arctic will never become winter-free, as we know from experience. To the audience watching on television or listening on the radio, I wish to encourage them, particularly our constituents as well as my colleagues here, that the Inuit homeland will continue to experience winter.

Although we are told and informed that global warming is occurring, it does not mean the Arctic will stop freezing up, based on our experiences. Mr. Speaker, ever since we were born into this land, the climate has changed, but it has never warmed up to the level forecasted, although the prevailing climate continues to change in our lands.

Mr. Speaker, it is extremely important to retain our traditional survival skills, particularly when we are outside of our communities. The traditional skill of igloo-building or Inuit survival skills have to be maintained as Inuit will continue to inhabit the Arctic.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? (interpretation) I don't hear any nays. Mr. Keyootak, please proceed.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to all members.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, the Arctic will continue to experience winter

and freezing. Our descendants in particular have to relearn these ancient survival skills that enabled our ancestors to survive on the land. If we do not have that knowledge, we have to ensure we learn these skills.

Mr. Speaker, life today includes many conveniences and tools for usage, such as GPS units and other technology available such as computers, the Internet, and SPOT, that allow Inuit to be on the land and we are aware of their convenience. Nonetheless, all technological wonders can break down and stop working. You can experience problems if all you know is how to use the convenient technology to travel and if you do not have traditional survival skills as a backup.

Traditional Inuit survival skills are essential for Inuit in our homeland. We all know that our ancestors were experts in traditional survival skills, but we continue to lose these experts today. If we do not take it upon ourselves to keep this knowledge, we will lose important parts of our culture.

Further, if we do not pass along this knowledge to our grandchildren and children, they will start to lose the foundation of our people's ancient knowledge. If we do not pass the knowledge on or relearn it, that will happen. We have to preserve our ancient survival skills as we, the Inuit, live in the Arctic and it will remain a largely frozen environment.

That was why I wanted to articulate my appreciation for the people who provided assistance and I am extremely proud of the search and rescue people who conducted this successful search.



Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 276 – 4(3): 2016  
Kimmirut High School Graduates**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge two individuals who will be graduating grade 12 in Kimmirut. Their names are Leetia Tikivik and Pitsiulala Atsiaq. I would like to congratulate those two students for completing grade 12 and I wish them well to further their education.

Mr. Speaker, it is a memorable moment when you graduate grade 12 and we keep hearing members stating their congratulations to the high school graduates. I remember very well when I first graduated 15 years ago and that time, the member for our riding had congratulated me for completing grade 12.

I know that there are going to be a lot more opportunities to enhance our lives. Therefore, I would like to remember all the graduates and congratulate them. I also know that they will be celebrating the graduates next week and I expect that I'll be able to attend the graduation ceremony in Kimmirut. Let's congratulate and be proud of the students that are graduating from high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 277 – 4(3):  
Qaqimat – Going Back Home**

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say "happy birthday" to my oldest daughter, Doreen Niego. I hope you have a wonderful day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Allen Makhagak, who, in 1995, composed a beautiful song titled "Going Back Home," which is a song about Kingauk, who undertook a visit to his homeland.

Mr. Speaker, it is always very heartening to see the video titled "Qaqimat" on YouTube. The video was put together in the year 1998 by Qaqimat's late son.

I would also like to pay special tribute to the river in the video. The river is a recognized Heritage River known as the Thelon River, "The Place Where God Began."

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues and all Nunavummiut to take the time to view the video "Qaqimat," which showcases a part of beautiful Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 278 – 4(3): The Need for an Elders Facility in Taloyoak**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the need for an elders facility in Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, like many communities across Nunavut, the population of Taloyoak is steadily aging. Individuals find themselves needing more support and assistance with their daily living as they get older. At the same time and also like many other communities across Nunavut, Taloyoak faces high unemployment levels.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will be aware, Taloyoak has a new health centre which was built very recently. The old health centre is now empty and could easily be converted into a care facility. Having such a facility would not only help to meet the needs of our elders, but it could also provide employment opportunities. Opening an elders facility would benefit the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the mayor of Taloyoak recently wrote to me on this issue. I understand that the mayor and SAO have been lobbying the Minister of Health for an elders facility in Taloyoak. I wish to add my voice to theirs in support of establishing an elders facility for Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 279 – 4(3): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To Nunavummiut and my fellow residents in Quttiktuq, I say “good day” and welcome to the House.

I rise today not to portray feelings of joy or congratulatory events, but a very important matter that arose when I was elected to the Legislative Assembly, which is an issue that our people in Nunavut clamour for.

I have taken it upon myself over the last three years now to convey or address the need for *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* here in Nunavut. Our people note that it has been missing amongst the Nunavut government ever since it was created.

The Nunavut government is vastly different from other governments in Canada. Aside from that, Inuit societal values have been suffering through legislation, which is contradictory to Inuit cultural practice. Inuit culture is very important and we want to see it being practised.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder what can be done for Nunavut. My legislative colleagues have promoted support for the government's operation. Why is it that the issues I keep pushing are going nowhere? It's mentioned in *Sivumut Abluqta*. When I see that is part and parcel of the Nunavut government, it pains me that we are ending up with our culture's erosion.

That being the case, three years have passed since I have lobbied the cabinet on Inuit societal values. They repeatedly claim that they fully support those values, yet to this day, this support has not gone much beyond lip service. On what basis is the cabinet operating the government? Is it knowledge amongst the ministers?

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

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

**Mr. Shooyook:** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to make it brief.

I have been quite passionate about incorporating traditional counselling services for the Department of Family Services and the Department of Justice so that the elders, who are very capable, can be involved in counselling people.

Mr. Speaker, as a father, I lost the authority over my children. Today, I am hurting because of this legislation. It seems like our children were just stolen from us by virtue of a foreign western cultural practice. Further, areas that Inuit would be able to proactively deal with are sent through the courts, with our people incarcerated in prisons.

Mr. Speaker, what are our goals in dealing with these issues I have advocated? Will the government ever incorporate the practices I promote?

Through these western practices, as fathers, we lost the authority over our children and we can no longer provide discipline. This has broken the Inuit traditional self-determination and knowledge base.

Mr. Speaker, even though I am voicing this passionately in front of the ministers, I know for a fact that they will not take this seriously. In making my Member's Statement as a legislator, I urge my colleagues to take this to heart. We are told that we are the legislators, but I see only the facet of asking questions and approvals. Personally, in reaching the third year of this legislature, I am now weary of this advocacy.

If this was properly founded on the land claims agreement, as it is written that Inuit will work towards repatriating their societal practices, it was music to our ears back in those days. As it turns out, as Inuit, we were just extinguishing control over our lives. How unfortunate and this is extremely regrettable.

I urge the ministers to open their ears so that they can be more compassionate to my statement. This is very important for our future generations. If changes are not wrought, we will see more episodes of people abusing firearms, committing theft, and being incarcerated, and the numbers will rise. This is something I feel is a truthful assessment and not just a guess.

Mr. Speaker, before the end of the 2017 fiscal year, I want to set my eyes on a plan outlining how Inuit traditional knowledge, which I alluded to, will be incorporated into counselling services in order to better our people's lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Joe Enook.

**Member's Statement 280 – 4(3):  
Appreciation for Airport  
Maintainers**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to making my Member's Statement, let me begin with saying to my fellow Pond Inlet residents that we will keep you in our thoughts as you experience difficulties.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to this matter. Within Nunavut, we are serviced in all avenues by the government public servants, municipal employees, and others. Sometimes we don't appreciate these people and acknowledge them, and I am personally guilty of not recognizing the services and convenience I am afforded by these services. Today, I want to acknowledge the workers who are rarely mentioned by pointing them out and to express my appreciation to them.

I believe all of the communities have airstrips. Whenever we have to attend to meetings or medical appointments, there is no choice but air transportation and this continues today. The airport maintainers in our communities, along with airport managers looking after the airstrip, are who I want to single out by voicing my gratitude to them today.

In particular, during the winter and especially in our community during the dark season, while I am comfortably sleeping, the airport maintainers are busy clearing the airstrip of snow to allow the arrival of the plane as well as the

departure without any hint of danger. This is something we rarely think of; at least I personally don't give much thought to the level of service we are receiving as Nunavummiut.

I also recall the fact that our airport maintainers and custodians have extra work when spring arrives due to the melting of the airstrips, which causes them to work harder. Sometimes while I am cosily sleeping away, the airport maintainer is preparing the airstrip in order for the plane to land and take off. Today, I want to extend my immense thankfulness to Nunavut's group of airport maintainers and custodians as they keep Nunavummiut safe, so I thank them all.

Furthermore, on a personal note, I wish to extend my appreciation to my fellow resident of Pond Inlet, Elijah Nashook. In all this time, our airstrip in Pond Inlet has a reputation for being the best maintained runway and the maintenance of the airstrip is amongst the best in the territory. I wish to thank you, Elijah, and have a good day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

**Member's Statement 281 – 4(3): Dog  
Mauling in Chesterfield Inlet**

**Mr. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was unsure as to how I would raise this matter, but I just received a call earlier stating that I

can speak to the issue here in the House, so I will make a brief statement on it.

Now, I believe my colleagues are all aware of what transpired in Chesterfield Inlet yesterday that resulted in a tragic event where a young girl was mauled by a dog and killed. Further, the affected parents are part of my own family, as I am related to them personally, and the victim was my nephew's granddaughter who passed away.

I want to inform my fellow Chesterfield Inlet residents that people in this House are thinking of them in both their thoughts and prayers. This is for all the people of Chesterfield Inlet. I had wanted to voice more thoughts on this, but I will just stop at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Pat Angnakak.

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

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of my constituents, Simon Nattaq, who is also a board member for QIA. Welcome.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize a person from Kugluktuk, a person whom I grew up with, and a person whom I went to school with. She is here helping the Department of [Culture and Heritage] do their work. Welcome to the House, Agnes Egotak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. David Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to take this time to recognize an individual from Cape Dorset, Maata Pudlat. She is taking the Interpreter/Translator Program here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

I would also like to recognize an individual originally from Hall Beach, Louise Akeearok. Welcome.

>>Applause

I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

#### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

##### **Question 366 – 4(3): Baker Lake Housing Authority**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

On February 23, 2015, the Baker Lake Housing Authority was formally established by way of ministerial order.

As the minister will recall, a mock election in the community was scheduled to be held earlier this year to select names to forward to the minister for recommended appointment to the local housing authority.

Can the minister confirm when the members of the local housing authority will be formally appointed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. George Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. It has been a little bit lengthier of a process than I had anticipated due to some administrative delays, but I can tell the member that I signed off on the documentation just this morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the sign-off.

As the minister will be aware, the report on phase 1 of the operational audit that was tabled by the Premier earlier this year recommended that a comprehensive review of local housing organizations be

undertaken and that this review, and I quote, “Identify potential cost-benefits of contracting out components of LHO maintenance and installation work to support the local economy.” Can the minister indicate if and when this review will take place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing up that document as well. With regard to that specific review, I don’t have a timeline. I know that my staff at the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been working very diligently on the blueprint for action to get that finished and available for me to present here in the legislature in the fall sitting.

There are always ongoing reviews of a lot of our programs, including the LHO management agreement that we discussed here last fall, which will help streamline some of the processes. We always encourage local participation with contractors with any tenders that we put out there, but I can’t give the member a firm date at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that new office and warehouse space for Baker Lake’s local housing authority has been approved. Can the minister indicate when construction on this project will

begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member also for bringing that forward. The warehousing program that NHC is undertaking to create a more standard design across the communities, we're looking at Baker Lake to provide the first model of that.

Some of our initial queries into the marketplace have brought in higher-than-expected cost estimates. We were hoping to start construction this year. The project is still approved. I had to go back to my colleagues at FMB to take a look at the budgetary constraints. We will be looking at putting tenders out during this year with construction starting next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 367 – 4(3): The Need for Women's Shelter Funding**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that in some Kitikmeot communities, there is a great need for shelters. I am aware of one case where a single mother with several young children is temporarily housed in a unit that is in very bad shape. In fact, the unit is in such bad shape that this family lives in fear for their health and safety.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how his department supports Kitikmeot communities in setting up and operating shelters so that they are safe and comfortable for those who need to use them and for those who need them most? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. George Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, with respect to people suffering from absolute homelessness, we try to work with all Nunavut communities on these issues with local initiatives on homelessness. It is much simpler and easier for the community to enact a local initiative sent to our corporation so that we can work towards that goal. That is how I can respond to the member. It should be a local initiative to resolve these challenges throughout Nunavut, whichever community undertakes that, and we can start the work collaboratively with the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past April, a motion was passed by the Kitikmeot Mayors' Forum regarding women's shelter funding. The motion requested that government funding for shelters cover all operating costs associated with the shelter. Can the minister confirm whether he has received a copy of that motion and the corresponding letter from the Kitikmeot Mayors' Forum and, if so, what was his

response? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I can now respond to the question about the correspondence or resolution that was mentioned. I personally have never signed off on one nor have I seen a copy. Nonetheless, I am aware of the matter the member referred to and that it will be dealt with. When the copy reaches me and I have reviewed the information and formulated a response, I have no doubt that the member representing that region of Kitikmeot would want to hear the response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was tabled back in June, not too long ago. The resolution was tabled in the House.

Mr. Speaker, there is a small family in Gjoa Haven temporarily living in a unit which desperately needs work. There is no hot water, no bath, shower, or plumbing for the kitchen sink, boarded up windows, and a furnace which emits fumes throughout the house.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify what kinds of assistance his department can provide to ensure that this family can be housed in a safe and comfortable manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the issues particular to the member's question when cases have to be dealt with don't just involve our Department of Family Services, as we have to collaborate with other departments such as the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

When a unit requires renovations, there are many reasons that lead to that situation. Due to the complexity, we had to first research the information on what work is needed related to the renovation of the unit. If that was the reason such as the member related, then perhaps it would be better to route this through the local housing authority and the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Depending on the circumstances, we would probably work with the local housing association and the appropriate department or even the municipal government, as well as the (interpretation ends) association or authority (interpretation) we need to work with. We first compile all the information prior to dealing with those issues.

I hope I was clear in my response. Perhaps I can look into the matter or if it's required, NHC or the local authority will deal with the issue. These details will have to be looked at as they are outside of my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Question 368 – 4(3): Status of Sanikiluaq’s Sewage Lagoon**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I have previously raised concerns regarding the status of Sanikiluaq’s new sewage lagoon, which has been delayed for a number of years.

I note that the department had identified a location for the new lagoon, but was unable to finalize that location last year due to a non-compliance issue with Transport Canada regulations. Following this setback, it was my understanding that the department intended to work with the hamlet council to discuss options for moving forward with this project.

Can the minister indicate if his department has met with the Sanikiluaq Hamlet Council to discuss options for the new sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, CGS has met with the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq on this matter. Like the member stated, this has been a long process that initially started in 2012 and we’ve had our difficulties with it, but I can give the member an update.

We have been communicating with the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq on the new initiative starting this February. There have been emails going back and forth and consultations, but the last face-to-face meeting was in April of this year to update the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq on what we hope and plan to do.

As I stated here many times, Dalhousie University is doing wetland studies and Sanikiluaq is part of the process. They were there in May to take samples and to study the existing sewage lagoon. They will be back in the fall to take more samples and then to meet with the hamlet council. From there, we will have a better idea of what we have and what we need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think he answered my first supplementary with what the next steps were, so I’ll go on to my second supplementary.

Can the minister provide a timeline by which he anticipates that his department will be able to complete the construction or the upgrade of the sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As much as I would like to give the member a direct answer on the timeline, I can’t do that until the studies are done, but I can assure the member that once the studies are done and the results are in from the fall, we will have

a better idea of what we need. We're not sure if we need to do extensive work or if what they have right now just needs a little bit of work. On that condition, I can't give him a timeline other than we are working on it and we want to resolve the problem with the sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq as quickly as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister was speaking, I thought of another question that I should ask. In the previous documents, it always stated that it would be a new sewage lagoon for the community. Can the minister confirm whether it will be a new sewage lagoon for the community or will it be an upgrade to the existing sewage lagoon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Initially, the plan was for a new sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq, but due to regulations from Transport Canada, we could not build a new sewage lagoon. We tried to get exemption permits from Transport Canada for a new sewage lagoon and we could not, so we will have to work with the existing lagoon, as far as I'm aware. With the new regulations there, a sewage lagoon cannot be built within four kilometres of Sanikiluaq and that is a major problem. Once the study is done and complete and we have all the information, more than likely, we will be working with the existing lagoon, making it bigger if we have to and making it work, but we will

resolve the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 369 – 4(3): The Need for an Elders Facility in Taloyoak**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, in my statement earlier today, I addressed the need for an elders facility in the community of Taloyoak.

Can the minister provide an update on what consideration her department has given to opening an elders facility in Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank the member for that question. The matters he mentioned were the reason why we met with the mayor and SAO of Taloyoak when they were in Iqaluit for meetings. However, I can only state that as of this date, we have no plans for that facility, but the Department of Health is researching the empty units throughout Nunavut to see how they could be incorporated into this research and we would need to work with CGS and it is currently being planned out at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The population of Taloyoak is steadily aging. It is important that we consider and plan for what will be needed in the near future to ensure that our elders are safe, comfortable, and able to stay near their families and culture.

Can the minister provide an update on what steps her department has taken to assess the needs for elders facilities in communities like Taloyoak and what plans are in place to meet those needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. In February's session, we tabled a document reporting on elders and the (interpretation ends) long-term care needs assessment. (interpretation) We completed the study as to the needs of our aging population and possible challenges the government will face in the future. This includes elders on the waiting lists looking for space at our existing elders facilities in Nunavut.

If our elders could remain in their houses longer, it would be preferable, but we know that as we age, our mobility suffers and we require more attention and services. First of all, there are home care nurses that visit the elders for specified hours during the day and this occurs weekly in light of an elder's increasing lack of self-care, as well as having cleaners who come into the house to clean the unit. This is scheduled in when elders become frailer and less able to look after themselves and require more nursing care. This is also included

in the considerations, as some elders need to be moved to elders facilities to receive more attentive care or where they need to be checked on more frequently.

To date, what I can state is that for people who want to take a workshop on taking care of elders, such as when an elder suffers dementia or loses their mental faculties, a workshop was just offered here and in other areas where elders require assistance. That was offered to people who had interest in assisting their elders. We also provide those training courses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, the new Taloyoak Health Centre is now up and running and the old health centre is sitting empty. Can the minister clearly explain what process should be followed to support the hamlet's suggestion to convert this building into an elders facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. If a building is geared towards an elders facility, different types of work are required to comply with the (interpretation ends) building codes. (interpretation) It would be assessed using the building codes to see whether the building is too antiquated or problematic. Currently, we're working

with CGS on how best to use that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

**Question 370 – 4(3): Plastic Bags in Nunavut**

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

It is now early spring and boating season will be upon us, especially here in Iqaluit. The dump waste disposal site is near the beach. Pieces of debris and plastic are blown into the ocean and they can clog outboard motors, causing breakdowns.

Plastic bags don't have much use and they contaminate the environment. I would like to ask the minister what considerations he has planned to cut down on the use of plastic bags in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have considered that, especially the shopping bags that are blown by the wind and go down the river into the ocean. This has been discussed within the Department of Environment. The process of how legislation could be drawn up has started within the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I travel to different places and some department stores have used shopping bags outside the store to be recycled. Can they plan for such things or put a complete stop to it? There are paper bags that are available in the stores. It is obvious that they can be used. Can the Department of Environment state exactly what their plans are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree with my colleague on how the plastic bags can be reused. The Government of Nunavut, especially the Department of Environment, should be in charge of this and the only way is through legislation. We have thought about how we can rectify the problem through legislation on waste reduction, specifically plastic shopping bags and other things. Some float in the water and in between. They are more dangerous that way. We are working on this issue. There will be legislation proposed in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. He stated that he will be proposing legislation. When will the Department of Environment be making that new legislative proposal on waste reduction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. In regard to the new legislation, we need to take the proper steps. The government will have to make the proper considerations. Hopefully during the fall session, I would like to be able to introduce the new legislation on plastic bags and waste. Once the Government of Nunavut has made the appropriate considerations, I will be able to introduce it in the fall session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

#### **Question 371 – 4(3): Driver’s Licences and Photo IDs**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to receive concerns from constituents in South Baffin regarding the length of time that it takes to issue new driver’s licences and I continue to receive questions regarding which department is ultimately responsible for this service.

I would first like to ask the minister if she can clarify how her department works with government liaison officers in the communities to issue driver’s licences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. In regard to the positions the member referred to, the (interpretation end) GLOs (interpretation) are the government liaison officers who support local residents with the Department of Transportation forms. The system has been set up in order for the employees to issue driver’s licences locally. We work with (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (interpretation) on the issuance of the licences and the process involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has been working to introduce a new Motor Vehicle Information System, but we know that there have been some delays in this project. Can the minister update us today on when the new MVIS is scheduled to become fully operational? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the (interpretation ends) Motor Vehicle

Information System (interpretation) the member mentioned, we have submitted supplementary budget appropriation for approval during this session. If the approval is forthcoming, then we can start to move forward in implementing the system and we can begin our planning on the installation of the computer hardware in the communities, as well as the software. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. In addition to driver's licensing and general identification cards, Nunavummiut need to be able to obtain passports from the federal government. In order to apply for passports, one needs photographs that meet the strict federal security standards.

For many years, residents of smaller communities have had difficulties in obtaining photographs due to a lack of equipment. Can the minister confirm whether or not the government's new MVIS will provide the capability for passport-quality photographs to be taken in all 25 Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Our primary function is essential for the administration of motor vehicles, driver's licences, and registration. MVIS will be a comprehensive and authoritative source of information for Nunavut residents and

it is critical that we have this system in place to be widely used. The role in providing travel documents will be driver's licences and general identification cards to the population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

### **Question 372 – 4(3): Status of the Tenant to Owner Program**

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

A number of my constituents in Pond Inlet who live in public housing have expressed interest in purchasing their units and becoming homeowners. In my humble opinion, the housing corporation should be encouraging and helping our residents to become homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Tenant to Owner Program is to, and I quote, "Allows tenants who are able to assume the costs and responsibility of homeownership to purchase their current public housing unit." However, it is my understanding that this program is, and I quote, "suspended pending further review."

Can the minister explain today why the Tenant to Owner Program is not currently being offered to Nunavummiut as it used to be? Why has it been stopped? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking this question. I know I'm supposed to be answering questions, not asking questions myself, but I'm curious as to know where the member got that quote from that the Tenant to Owner Program was suspended.

In fact, this program was developed back in 2002 and as recently as October of last year, it went through some revisions to make it more accessible to Nunavummiut for residents that are currently in public housing to be able to purchase an approved residence in a community by NHC in collaboration with the local housing organization to make sure that also they meet the minimum criteria of being able to sustain a unit financially.

To my knowledge, this program is alive and well. I still think personally that it's underutilized. I encourage people at the community level, if their desire is to transition into a homeownership situation for their residence, to go either to the local housing organization office or go online for applicants and those will be reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is another concern. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that one of the concerns about this program is the ability of residents to assume the costs of homeownership. Can the minister indicate what income level is required to be a homeowner in Nunavut?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Hickey:** It's Hickey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. It is the community-based income guidelines that are utilized under the homeownership programs. I don't have every community in front of me right now, but if the member would give me a little bit of time, I could talk to him after the sitting today and go over the chart with all the income guidelines that would pertain to his specific community.

It is our desire to assist people to go into homeownership opportunities, but at the same time, we have to make sure that the income is available so that they can afford to maintain that residence and we are not putting people in a financial situation that creates challenges for them and their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will connect at a later time.

For my last question, there was a letter written to Mr. Rumbolt, chair of the standing committee, on October 17, 2014 about the same thing I am talking about.

It is my understanding that another one of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's concerns about this program is the impact that it has on the corporation's current approach to determining community allocations for new public housing. Can the minister describe how the housing corporation's current review of the TOP program is addressing this issue? What has been reviewed to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I understood the member's question. When we are taking residences or infrastructures off of our books and selling them privately, it does take a piece of inventory out of our stock, but at the same, it provides a long-term homeownership opportunity for a family in that community so that they are not in need of public housing.

Those dollars could be turned around and utilized into building more infrastructure across the territory to help address the crisis of housing that we currently are experiencing here in Nunavut. It is an ongoing challenge that I hope we can resolve in my lifetime, but at the same time, we have to deal with today's realities.

The end result in a housing continuum is homeownership that is appropriate for the resident. Our ultimate goal is to provide that opportunity to as many people that one, can afford it and two, who want to experience that part of the housing continuum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 373 – 4(3): Qikiqtarjuaq Solid Waste Site**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, for quite some time now, we have been talking about the need to relocate the dump in Qikiqtarjuaq. Can the minister indicate when they will start the work on the relocation of the dump in Qikiqtarjuaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government needs to communicate with the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq and the government cannot unilaterally make decisions on solid waste dump relocations. This applies to all dumps within Nunavut's communities or rather applies to (interpretation ends) solid waste sites or dumps, (interpretation) as most of the sites are full to capacity or nearing their useful lifecycle.

With respect to the Nunavut-wide challenges, these sites are currently being researched as to how this process can move forward. At this time, I cannot state when the solid waste site in Qikiqtarjuaq would be relocated or even the relocation site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This dump is situated in a dangerous area and has created safety issues around Qikiqtarjuaq primarily due to the concerns held by the hamlet and residents involving polar bears. Qikiqtarjuaq is situated in an area with one of the largest polar bear populations in the Baffin region and the dump lies right in the middle of the polar bear migration routes they use in the fall.

The dump is situated right on the road and many residents also have cabins in the vicinity. There is a road leading there and people pass by the dump on their way to their cabins. Some residents actually walk to their cabins. During the fall season, the dump always has polar bears in the vicinity and people also pass by. Further, this means the conservation officer has to spend the entire night at the solid waste dump, especially during the peak of the migration.

Due to these reasons, it is considered an urgent priority to relocate the solid waste site in Qikiqtarjuaq. Can the minister take these safety concerns into their deliberation as it is a public safety issue due to the polar bears in the fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, fall time is, indeed, polar bear season for many communities, and Arviat also experiences challenges with polar bears at the solid waste site. There are polar

bears in the vicinity every day and night, so my colleague's statement is something I am familiar with.

Nonetheless, in Arviat during the fall when polar bears are passing through, the waste is generally burned and covered with gravel. This would provide some assistance to the challenges, especially in blocking the polar bears' acute sense of smell so that if the dump has food, then the bears will not visit the dumpsites.

However, as per my earlier statement, the dumpsites in Nunavut are currently under review and recommendations will be forthcoming as to whether to improve the sites or to relocate them elsewhere. Nonetheless, at this time, I cannot state that yes, we will be moving the dumpsite due to polar bear aggressions at the Qikiqtarjuaq dumpsite.

When polar bears pass through in the fall or even in the winter, the waste should be burnt or covered with gravel. I know that in the winter, it would be very difficult to cover the waste site in the winter, but in Arviat every fall, they burn the waste before it overruns the dump. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not solely due to polar bears where local concerns have been brought up. Part of the concerns revolves around polar bears, as I mentioned, during the fall season when Qikiqtarjuaq residents walk to their cabins and the route takes them through the dumpsite.

Further, the solid waste site is also upland from the community water reservoir, directly in line with the prevailing wind. When the wind picks up, it can blow the waste directly onto the water reservoir. When Qikiqtarjuaq does get windy, which is occasional, the wind is quite strong. When it is windy in the summer, it also gets dangerous due to the waste material being blown across the road towards the reservoir. For that reason, the community has wanted to relocate the dump.

As the minister has stated, he cannot tell me when the work will occur. Can I get a commitment from the minister that they will look into this issue by working with the hamlet council in Qikiqtarjuaq? They definitely have to relocate the solid waste site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't exactly tell you at this time that we will move the solid waste site. As I stated previously, we're now reviewing and analyzing all the solid waste sites in Nunavut. If we move the solid waste site, it will have to go through (interpretation ends) environmental hearings (interpretation) and it has to go through the NIRB process.

As I stated before, the sewage lagoon in Sanikiluaq is too close to the airstrip and it was denied. The new solid waste sites can't be near the airstrips. I have not seen where the Qikiqtarjuaq solid waste site is in relation to the airport. In regard to new solid waste dumps, they have to be four kilometres from the airport.

We have to review all those sites in Nunavut, but I know that the solid waste sites are being filled to capacity and we're dealing with it now. I know that the funding is not going to be adequate to resolve all the issues in all the communities. We can only do so much with the funding, but in regard to the solid waste site in Qikiqtarjuaq, we're not moving it any time soon right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 374 – 4(3): Crime Prevention Strategies and Programs in Nunavut**

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

On May 26, 2015, the Minister of Justice tabled the *Public Engagement Report for the Crime Prevention Strategy*. Mr. Speaker, I note that this document is not a territorial crime prevention strategy.

In fact, the department indicates in this report that "The feedback and knowledge that we gathered from this report will be used in the creation of a made in Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy for the benefit of all Nunavummiut."

Can the minister tell us today when we can expect to see a final version of this "made in Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy"? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Speaker, shortly after I became the Minister of Justice, I was briefed on a number of outstanding initiatives that are in the process of being developed and it's a rather thick document. I believe they visited most communities in Nunavut and there were a lot of people consulted.

Crime prevention is an important issue in the minds of people in Nunavut. The department is currently in the process of drafting a framework and action plan to share with partners and stakeholders on how to go forward with a crime prevention strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite hear a date for the final version. I'll have to do a follow-up on that.

On March 16, 2016, the minister tabled his department's 2013-14 and 2014-15 annual reports under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. In this report, the department indicates that "Justice Committees are tasked with running crime prevention programs in their communities," but does not provide more information on the substance of these programs or their results.

I realize that justice committees are established by motions of a hamlet council. However, these committees are funded largely through the department's

contribution funding. Can the minister indicate why his department does not include information regarding the specific crime prevention initiatives of these justice committees in his department's annual reports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Mr. Speaker, as the Government of Nunavut, we table hundreds of documents every year. We try to cover as much information in all the documents that all the government departments and territorial corporations think is important to Nunavummiut.

I can't tell her today why we didn't cover that specific item and I can't tell Nunavummiut. It's something we will have to check. Perhaps we will have to do that with all the tabled documents and annual reports. It will probably be a couple of inches thick, it will kill a lot of trees that we don't have, and it will be a lot of reading for some people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>> *Laughter*

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are interested and we're interested in how money is spent.

Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions, I have directed questions to the Minister of Justice concerning the feasibility of

implementing a wellness court in Nunavut, which could divert offenders from the traditional court system and prevent the cycle of recurrent criminal behaviour.

Can the minister tell us today if his department is undertaking any specific initiatives to begin implementing a wellness court in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to assure the member, since she is so concerned about money well spent, that the government is spending money well. We continue to make those improvements every year with her support and the support of all our colleagues in this House. We have tightened up the whole capital budgeting process and the main estimates process, so she should be assured that the money is well spent.

However, on the wellness courts, the department is continuing again. As I said in reply to a question on another topic, they are investigating the wellness courts. They're looking at other jurisdictions. Of course, as Ms. Angnakak well knows, wellness courts only function well if the person is willing to go that route and the government has the facilities to support a person who wishes to go the route of a wellness court. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

### **Question 375 – 4(3): The Need for a New Air Terminal Building in Naujaat**

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

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that I have brought up on more than one occasion regarding the terminal building in Naujaat. The government is now looking at the terminal buildings and checking out their conditions. The terminal in Naujaat is too small for the growing population.

Mr. Speaker, I have said in the House on more than one occasion that if there are going to be a lot of passengers leaving and when the arrivals come in, not everybody can fit into the terminal. Some of them are left outside due to the small size of the terminal.

Mr. Speaker, under these circumstances, would the Department of Economic Development and Transportation consider it a safety issue and place the building of a new terminal in Naujaat as a priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. Our department is conducting a comprehensive review of all terminals in Nunavut and whether to renovate or replace the air terminals. The terminal in Naujaat was built in 1981 and it is

included in this review. At this time, there are five terminals that need to be replaced and Naujaat's terminal is included in these five cases that are recommended for a brand-new terminal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I speak the truth when I refer to that building, as passengers cannot enter the terminal due to overcrowding. This applies to arriving and departing passengers, especially when the plane is full. That is the situation that happens every time it is overcrowded and becomes a real safety concern.

Mr. Speaker, with that terminal in that situation, what options are there? In my opinion, it is an urgent emergency issue. Does the Department of Transportation or the minister know when this study or review will run? The residents of Naujaat would like an idea of how long the interim will be before a larger air terminal is constructed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question about the infrastructure. With respect to the review of the air terminals, the review is ongoing, although recommendations are being drafted.

We have negotiated with the federal government on the infrastructure deficit, as this requires careful planning and it would have to be included in the list of projects needing approval. We have worked on the plan for some time, but I haven't been informed that it is an urgent priority and I will ask that my officials look into this matter further related to how urgent the situation is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister just stated that she hasn't been informed that the air terminal constitutes a safety violation because there are no inspectors working for the Transportation Division that go to Naujaat. With that being the case, can the minister inform me as to which officials are responsible for inspecting the facilities? Where do the inspectors come from? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. It is our departmental officials in the regions that visit the communities. I don't have information on whether they have gone to inspect the facility, but I can look into that matter and provide the information on the actual departmental position related to the terminal. I can provide the information personally to the member

when I get the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Moving on to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister George Kuksuk.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 149 – 4(3): Update on the 2014 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut**

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Update on the 2014 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

#### **Tabled Document 150 – 4(3): 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Department of Education**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2013-14 *Annual Report of the*

*Department of Education*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): My apologies. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of the Status of Women, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

#### **Tabled Document 151 – 4(3): Communiqué – Outcomes & Priorities for Action to Address Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls**

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Communiqué – Outcomes & Priorities for Action to Address Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls*, February 26, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Tabled Document 152 – 4(3): Letter of Expectation for 2016-2017 for the Following Crown Agencies: Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Nunavut Development Corporation, Nunavut Housing Corporation, and Qulliq Energy Corporation**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Letter of Expectation for 2016-17 for the following Crown agencies:

- Nunavut Arctic College
- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation
- Nunavut Development Corporation
- Nunavut Housing Corporation

- Qulliq Energy Corporation

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

**Tabled Document 153 – 4(3): Opening Comments for NHC’s Appearance Before the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples – March 23, 2016**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Opening Comments for NHC’s Appearance Before the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples – March 23, 2016*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

**Tabled Document 154 – 4(3): 2016 Northern Premiers’ Forum**

**Tabled Document 155 – 4(3): 2016 Western Premiers’ Conference**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Mr. Speaker, I have two documents to table.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 2016 Northern Premiers’ Forum held in Old Crow, Yukon April 28 to 29, 2016; and also the Western Premiers’ Conference held in Vancouver, British Columbia, May 4 to 6, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Tabled Document 156 – 4(3): Update on the Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 157 – 4(3): Angirraqangittuliriniq 2015-2016, A Framework for Action for Nunavut’s Absolute Homeless**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two other documents that I would like to table.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the first document here is I am pleased to table the *Update on the Report on the Review of the 2014-15 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the *Angirraqangittuliriniq 2015-16, A Framework for Action for Nunavut’s Absolute Homeless*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

**Tabled Document 158 – 4(3): Nunavut is Facing a Severe Housing Crisis**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also pleased to table the presentation used by the Nunavut

Housing Corporation's appearance before the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples titled "*Nunavut is facing a severe housing crisis: Compared to the rest of the country, Nunavut's housing statistics are devastating.*" Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have a number of items to table.

**Tabled Document 159 – 4(3): Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut for the Time Period of January 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016**

**Tabled Document 160 – 4(3): Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures Legislative Assembly of Nunavut Retiring Allowances Act Effective January 1, 2016**

**Tabled Document 161 – 4(3): Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures Legislative Assembly of Nunavut Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act Effective January 1, 2016**

**Tabled Document 162 – 4(3): Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund Iqaluit, Nunavut Financial Statements March 31, 2016**

**Tabled Document 163 – 4(3): Legislative Assembly Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund Iqaluit, Nunavut Financial Statements March 31, 2016**

**Tabled Document 164 – 4(3): Report on the Payment of Indemnities, Allowances, Benefits and Expenses to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut for the Period Ending March 31, 2016**

The first document is the Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period of January 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016.

The second and third documents are statements of investment policies and procedures for the Legislative Assembly's *Retiring Allowances Act* and *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

The fourth and fifth documents are the financial statements of the Legislative Assembly's Retiring Allowances Fund and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund for the period ending March 31, 2016.

The sixth document is the *Report on the Payment of Indemnities, Allowances, Benefits and Expenses to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut for the Period Ending March 31, 2016*.

(interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Economic



Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

### Item 17: First Reading of Bills

#### Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act – First Reading

**Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, Paul Quassa, that Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Travel and Tourism Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson.

#### Bill 19 – Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act – First Reading

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 19, *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 17 and 18 and Tabled Documents 73 –

4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:38 and Committee resumed at 16:15*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Good day, my fellow Nunavummiut and residents of Baker Lake.

(interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) and Bills 17 and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the discussion on Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) and, if time permits, we will proceed with the review of Bill 17, followed by Bill 18. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we continue with Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3)?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Tabled Document 073 – 4(2): Human Resource Strategy 2014-2018 – Consideration in Committee**

**Tabled Document 116 – 4(2): Public Service Code of Values and Ethics – Consideration in Committee**

**Tabled Document 140 – 4(2): Public Service Annual Report 2013-2014 – Consideration in Committee**

**Tabled Document 070 – 4(3): 2014-2015 Public Service Annual Report – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Peterson if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your officials. Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Chairman, to my right is Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Jeff Chown, Comptroller General of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members have questions on the tabled documents? Does the committee agree that we have concluded debate on Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3)?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials and invite him to make closing comments. Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank yourself and the committee for your questions over the last three days in Committee of the Whole. I know that there are a lot of concerns with the human resources side of the Department of Finance.

I can assure members that since April 1, 2013, we have been very engaged in addressing many of the issues that were raised in previous reports, especially the ones by the Auditor General of Canada and the Committee of the Whole in the third government. We're well on our way to correcting all the deficiencies. Hopefully, I have explained a lot of those.

I know that there are people out there who are concerned about workplace harassment. We have been working fairly hard on that as evidence supports. There are more protections than ever for employees of the Government of Nunavut. I'm sure everybody gets their fair hearing. Nobody is dismissed out of hand. I want to assure the members of that.

Article 23 is a priority for this government. We are working very

actively to put mechanisms, directives, and strategies in place to increase Inuit employment in the government. It's going to take time. We have only been at this for a little over three years. We're making very good strides in that direction.

I would like to thank all of my officials who are here with me in the Chambers and at the witness table. I would like to thank all of our hard-working Government of Nunavut employees across Nunavut who go to work every day in some very difficult circumstances, depending on what position they're in. There are nurses, teachers, RCMP officers, and many others. I thank them and everybody who goes to work.

Working for the public service is a very noble calling to serve people. That's what we pride ourselves on here in Nunavut. I take my hat off to everybody who gets up every day and goes to work and puts in a hard day's work in serving their fellow Nunavummiut. With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out. Ms. Angnakak.

**Committee Motion 008 – 4(3):  
Management of Human Resources  
in the Government of Nunavut**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to read out a motion in the Committee of the Whole.

WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut's Department of Human Resources was dissolved on April 1, 2013;

AND WHEREAS the functions and responsibilities of the department were divided between the Department of Finance and the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Finance is now responsible for employee relations, job evaluation, regional operations, recruitment and staffing;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is now responsible for Inuit employment initiatives, the Sivuliqtiksats Division, public service training, and community employment support;

AND WHEREAS responsibility for staff housing is divided between a number of entities;

AND WHEREAS members have received a significant number of concerns from constituents regarding such matters as harassment and bullying in the workplace;

AND WHEREAS members are of the view that the reintegration of these functions and responsibilities into a single, independent public service commission would serve to enhance the coordination and cohesiveness of the government's management of human resources;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE that this committee formally recommends that the Government of Nunavut reintegrate its human resources functions and responsibilities into a single, independent public service commission which includes an entity modelled after

the Government of Yukon's Respectful Workplace Office;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the Government of Nunavut's 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 departmental business plans reflect this change;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that all necessary amendments to the *Public Service Act* be introduced in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest practicable opportunity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please provide a copy of the motion to the table.

Order. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to procedures.

Every member has a right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes.

The mover of the motion speaks first.

The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate.

To the motion. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First off, I would like to recognize the people, the staff, and the ministers over the last few years who have really worked on the issues and concerns in regard to the functions of the GN of HR.

I also note that efforts have been made over the years in changing the structure. I still think, though, there are more

changes to be made. Just because we have made changes in the past doesn't mean that we can't make further changes.

There is no one model that addresses all issues, but some models are better than others, and we believe that a public service commission is the direction to go.

Today, we would like you to think about and support a public service commission option. We are proposing this model for a number of reasons. It is a model that is used in many other jurisdictions, but not yet tried in Nunavut.

We know that the Yukon uses this model and we have similarities with the Yukon: our size; our population; our common concerns raised by our constituents when it comes to HR functions.

It is my personal belief, I guess, that new things or new methods should be tried out when there are concerns over how the current way of doing things is raised.

The integration of the HR functions will help provide oversight, guidance, and better management overall of HR-related issues and methods. This new way will allow the inclusion of addressing office bullying and harassment in a fair and transparent way.

Human resources are not only about jobs or training; it's providing a means for self-reliance for the Nunavut workforce through meaningful and respectful employment opportunities.

We need to ensure all staff are treated with respect and that the Government of Nunavut is the desired choice of

workplace rather than just a place to work. This starts by addressing the known concerns. It starts by working and addressing concerns collectively and transparently.

We are asking you in the House today to support our motion in order for us to move forward in addressing the HR functions that have been raised as concerns over the last two and a half years in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Comments to the motion. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) This is the first time we have seen the motion. We have to look at it very carefully. Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you, we would like to take a 15-minute break so that we can look at the exact contents of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to take a break?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will take a 15-minute break.

*>>Committee recessed at 16:31 and resumed at 16:49*

**Chairman:** Welcome back. Comments to the motion. Mr. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleagues for their patience. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you. I'll be speaking against the motion.

Mr. Chairman, let me first say that I appreciate the members bringing forth the motion so that there can be debate on this issue.

Nunavut and the Government of Nunavut is a product and a direct result of our land claims agreement. Within the land claims, there are several articles that deal with the role of the Nunavut government, including Article 23, which specifically deals with beneficiaries and hiring.

Going back to 1999 and the First Assembly, there was a human resources department. Some members may be aware that our elected predecessors in those governments also debated and reviewed the issues with human resources and the department of personnel.

In this government, we do not have a centralized, dedicated department of human resources. To me, the government toward going through a public service commission would involve ensuring a proper review of the logistic, administrative and financial implications that it would entail. We would want to ensure that all members have a say in that process.

After our upcoming fall session, there will be only effectively nine months remaining in the life of the Fourth Assembly. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that the incoming Fifth Assembly of the Government of Nunavut should be tasked with the review of human resources and implications, the pros and cons of setting up an independent public service commission.

Mr. Chairman, I will be prepared to ensure that the motion direction is noted in the transition document for the incoming new cabinet at this time. It will be up to them to decide if it is in the direction they want to move in.

Mr. Chairman, the motion would be fundamentally changing the government's way of doing business. We would be making a decision for the coming new Assembly. That's one of the things that we do not want to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Comments to the motion. Mr. Joanasié.

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Angnakak, for moving this motion. I will be for this motion. We have talked about HR matters over the past several days, starting last week, and as noted in the motion, the split of HR functions to the Department of Finance and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

My lines of questioning have been deflected or unanswered due in part because the Inuit employment initiatives, which fall under Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, do not fall within, supposedly, the tabled documents that we have been considering. Therefore, that's part of why I'm for this motion in creating an independent entity that would merge these into one place.

Also with that, I think it's important to note that yes, Article 23 in the land claims is a cornerstone of this government. We have seen the action or inaction of it. I think the establishment of an independent commission will make

a new impact on the public service in that we have been expecting different results that we have been striving for with the public service, specifically on Inuit employment.

Also with that, there are many initiatives, such as for Inuit to advance into different levels in the public service. However, I don't find it quite cohesive in that there are no linkages that start from summer student initiatives all through up until senior management. I think that there needs to be more cohesion in this matter.

Also, the hiring practices, we hear different things. There are two sides to every matter. Sometimes we hear that Inuit are not screened in due to a lack of experience, even though they might have the educational requirements. I think this independent commission would be a fairer and more transparent model to see our hiring practices through a different lens.

I just wanted to share that and I hope that my colleagues will support me in this with Ms. Angnakak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Comments to the motion. Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for allowing me an opportunity over the last few days to debate human resources in the House. I recall doing it many times in the House, similar to my colleagues, when I was an MLA and then dealing with the reports from various sources, including the Auditor General's report in 2010.

Mr. Chairman, the members recommend the Yukon model. I think we have been priding ourselves in recent years on developing made-in-Nunavut models in legislation. I hope we continue that. There's no evidence, to my knowledge, that the Yukon Public Service Commission is any better than how we're doing in Nunavut.

Just for the record, I'll be voting against the motion. My comments will be in that direction.

In my opinion, the Government of Nunavut is too small to warrant a public service commission. Creating and maintaining a public service commission structure is costly and creates additional bureaucracy, leading to duplication and redundancy. We have done our jurisdictional research.

Saying that, balance may not be found between the need to avoid the appearance of favouritism through an independent public service decision-making in the recruitment and management of the public service and the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* objectives for the fulfillment of "Towards a Representative Public Service." That's TRPS. People out there will find the TRPS reports on the finance website.

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada previously identified significant issues and challenges related to human resources functions when there was a standalone human resources department. To pull human resources-related responsibilities even further out of the Government of Nunavut to an arm's-length body public service commission could result in less oversight and more

issues, such as delays in staffing positions.

The Government of Nunavut made changes to the human resources management structure only three years ago. The processes are improving and it takes time. I said at the time that I didn't pull any punches. I said that we were creating Family Services. We were splitting Social Services out of Health. I said at the time that it's going to take time. Like steering a ship, it takes time to start seeing positive and effective results. I believe that it's prudent to give this current structure some time to yield the desired results.

As the Premier mentioned, I think we're two and a half years into our *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate. We have about a year and a half left from here. To me, this would be a fundamental shift with less than two years left in our mandate and that's going to have significant impacts on our *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate, which we all voted on in Kugluktuk when we were together as the Full Caucus, what we want to do in this government. We're making significant strides in that area.

I believe that, instead of looking to create a public service commission that we hope will address the issues, it is better for us in Nunavut to look at ways to improve the existing human resource structure and processes. This would be less costly and less time-consuming, and it's what we're doing with human resource functions under the present structure.

From a recent jurisdictional review that we have done, public service commissions, in their pursuit of objectivity and control, have the

tendency to lose their focus on the provision of services to governments. As a result, client service satisfaction is often unsatisfactory. Responsiveness to client concerns is problematic as public service commissions view themselves as accountable to the legislature and not the organization since they're typically enshrined in legislation.

Some jurisdictions have public service commissions to deal with disclosures of wrongdoing within the public service. The Government of Nunavut, under the present human resource structure, has already enabled the *Public Service Act* provision which gives public servants the opportunity to report wrongdoing through the internal processes as well as through the ethics officer.

Experiences with other governments from what we have come up with, the Yukon government established a public service commission that seems to protect the merit principle in hiring that has proven to be bureaucratic and somewhat inflexible. I don't know why Ms. Angnakak has latched onto that particular model. We have done our research. I don't know if members have had the chance to do their research on public service commissions.

The Yukon Public Service Commission's recruitments focused too much on formal education and qualifications and paper credentials. These credentials were operated as a barrier to aboriginal recruitment and thereby undermined rather than honoured the merit principle. A variety of studies have been conducted over the years in the Yukon aimed at improving services in areas such as staffing, but very little real change has occurred. As a

result, the level of satisfaction with the public service commission's services is low.

Despite significant efforts, the Government of Nunavut has a large number of vacant positions. To create an entirely new body such as a public service commission for HR responsibilities and to expect that it would be fully staffed and capable of handling the Government of Nunavut's human resource needs is unrealistic and costly.

The federal information commissioner has commented in the past that too much publicly available information related to the public service type employees can affect the integrity of investigations and undermine the effectiveness of such public agents. When public service type employees and their backgrounds are well known to the public, investigations and activities will be perceived to be biased.

Several jurisdictions do not have public service commissions. Among those that do, many have placed responsibility for staffing and other significant HR functions either with an individual department, usually Finance or a treasury board, or were delegated to individual departments. The Government of Nunavut is already working with departments and public bodies on improving the GN staffing processes.

Mr. Chairman, since the dissolution of Human Resources in 2013, the following events have occurred within the Government of Nunavut:



- We have revised the *Public Service Act* on September 17, 2013, which includes the following:
  - Confirms the objectives of Article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*;
  - Places emphasis on promoting ethics in the public services through the Nunavut Code of Values and Ethics, and this was tabled in March 2015;
- The *Public Service Act* elevates the *Priority Hiring Policy* as a mandatory policy of the Government of Nunavut. It improves staffing processes. It creates a process for the reporting of wrongdoing and an ethics officer to receive wrongdoing reports. As we saw from the ethics officer report I tabled last week, he was quite busy last year. His report was tabled in a timely fashion and we hope that will continue.
- We revised the *Staffing Review and Appeals Regulations* in 2013, which included the following:
  - We extended the staffing appeal process to excluded and senior manager employees.
  - We updated the process for staffing appeals.
  - We successfully negotiated a three-year collective agreement with the Nunavut Teachers Association, which was signed on June 30, 2014.
- We're currently in negotiations with the NEU for the Government of Nunavut.
- There was a new Department of Finance website created in 2014.
- A new standardized job posting template was developed in 2015.
- We tabled the GN's *Human Resource Strategy* on November 4, 2014. I talked about it extensively here over the last three days, and I hope everybody was listening across Nunavut, all the officials and all the departments.
- We have an implementation plan for the *Human Resource Strategy* that was developed and incorporated into the business plans for the departments and public bodies in 2015. I'm sure everybody had a chance to review them.
- We have made progress on the goals and objectives of the *Human Resource Strategy* and developed new and revised human resource tools. There have been 20 so far and more are underway, but some of the key ones I'll mention are:
  - Internal disclosure of wrongdoing;
  - Restricting competitions to strengthen our Article 23 priority hire;
  - Harassment-free workplace;
  - Workplace conflict management;

- *Harassment Free Workplace Policy*;
- Preferential treatment.

I could go on; there are quite a few, but I'll leave it at that.

We're working towards improving the interview process for job competitions in the public service and that was initiated in 2014-15. We're constantly creating new resource materials to help people prepare resumé writing and write their resumé and help them to prepare for interviews. Going to an interview is stressful as it is, but we're teaching people how to do that. That was posted on the GN website in February 2016.

We have reduced the hiring time to fill positions. Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, back in the OAG's report, it was a long time before positions were filled. This past fiscal year, we got the average hiring time down to 95 days and we could get it down to 70 if everything fell into place, there were no appeals, and everything went hunky-dory. The year before that, it was down to 81 days, but we've got it under 100 days and we're striving to improve it.

We have improved the number of positions filled in 2013-14. With 613 advertisements, we filled close to 60 percent of those jobs. In 2014-15, we advertised 403 jobs and we filled 84 percent, which is quite significant. We have improved the number of job applications since 2012-13. In 2014-15, for 403 positions, we had 12,715 applications, 2,157 of those were beneficiaries, so there is a lot of interest out there. As I said, beneficiaries under

Article 23, we have 100 percent of our job ads priority hire.

The summer employment equity program: since 2013, we have increased the summer students from 154 to 207 to 208. We're continuing to make improvements on that and trying to get it out in all the communities. We're working very hard at that.

We have improved the tabling times for the TRPS reports. Without going to FMB and cabinet to get approval, we just post them quarterly on our website so that people have access to quick and timely information.

We have improved the tabling time of our Public Service Annual Report. We improved the data. With the data that the members are using and asked me some questions for, there's always room to improve and we will continue to improve. I intend to table that report in the fall of 2016, which is probably less than six or seven months after the year-end when it's usually 10 to 18 months after the year-end. Data is important and that's why we need these reports.

*The Nunavut Public Service Code of Ethics and Values* was tabled on March 11, 2015, as I said. That information has been sent to all the GN staff and all communities. As I mentioned, there's a little handbook that all employees have and I encourage them all to read it. That's what governs us. Workplace harassment and workplace behaviour are in there. Outside work is in there. We appointed the ethics officer. We have implemented a return-to-work program to assist ill or injured workers back to work.

We have improved the long-term service award program. We conduct them annually. Many of you have been to the long-term service awards in Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet or Cambridge Bay or wherever they're held, but it's very well received by all our employees. Employees like to be recognized. Often in the past, they weren't recognized for their long-term service and I would like to acknowledge all those long-term service employees across Nunavut who have given 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 35, 40, and 45 years of public service. Mr. John Quirke over there, thank you for your commitment to the public service.

We created and are delivering harassment-free workplace training programs for managers and employees. I have discussed that. It has been rolled out over the last six to eight months and is very successful. I participated in two in my home community of Cambridge Bay. I have been helping people distinguish between what's workplace harassment, what's bullying, and what's performance management. We're currently working on a labour relations module. We're cleaning up the job evaluation appeals, some as far back as 1999. We're getting there.

As Ms. Angnakak has mentioned and Mr. Joanasie again today mentioned, there are two sides to a story. Ms. Angnakak has come to me on occasion with concerns. I have listened to them very seriously. In fact, I have talked to some of the people that she sent to see me. I have encouraged Ms. Angnakak and I told her, "You hear their side; you've got to get the other side."

I made an offer yesterday at the witness table, "Any MLA, if you have a

constituent or a concerned person with their file, if they give you the authorization to look at their file and they confirm that they know what's on their file, we will make their file available in a secure location where a human resources officer will allow you to look at the file and you can make your determination. There will be no cameras, no cellphones, no pens or pencils. You just get to look at their file. You can read through it." I don't read through the files, but I get the binders with the information.

I can assure everybody that people are treated fairly and equitably. We have more protections than ever before in the Government of Nunavut for our workers. We also have the union and the collective agreement with the NEU and NTA that offers protection to their employees. There are processes for everybody to follow.

It's unfortunate that some people feel that they must go to their MLA and must go to the newspaper when they don't get their way or if the results don't go their way or the outcome doesn't go their way. I could sit here all day and talk and I would have to blur the names and things, but I could tell you some real horror stories going on in the workplace that some of the employees were engaged in or causing stress to other employees and to managers. Some of our managers have been threatened and bullied, and the GN safety office has recommended that employees be removed.

There are cost implications to what Ms. Angnakak's motion is recommending. Having been through the restructuring process the last time around, it is costly,

it takes time, and a lot of review has to be done. Given that we're in the midst of our capital planning and main estimates process already, plus we are trying to fulfill our *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate, to me, a recommendation like this is unachievable at this time.

I would concur with the Premier that if the new government in the Fifth Assembly wishes to pursue a public service commission, we shall leave it to them to make that determination. With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Comments to the motion. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the mover of the motion.

We are starting to hear that we need to abide by the land claims agreement. I remember when this issue was first dealt with and NTI was informed, they were quite concerned about the dissolution of the Department of Human Resources. We have to follow the land claims agreement and try to support it.

I was very pleased to read in the news that the federal government is looking for Inuit employees through the Internet. This individual who was working for the federal government stated, "Let's make Article 23 stronger." We should practise that as a government, to strengthen Article 23.

With that, I will be in support of the motion because the system we use today is not good enough. When we see Inuit trying to be in the workforce and be bullied, we've never had any avenue to go by. Even though we feel for Inuit

employees, we have policies or regulations that we run across as barriers. We should try a different system.

As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I have to help and take part in looking for alternative ways. As the government has to be accountable to us, we can make recommendations on how they can better operate. According to the right that I have, I will be participating in support of the motion because the government has to be accountable to us. I will be in support of this motion.

The system is not new to us because it has been tested and tried outside of the Nunavut territory. I know that the Inuit will be represented by this entity. I will be very pleased if the motion is carried and also on behalf of the Inuit, who are in the workforce, so that they could get more support. After this motion is carried, I'm sure it will create a better workplace.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Comments to the motion. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief with my comments.

We all know that Nunavut is unique. That would be my first comment. We wanted to be different from other governments, including the territories, when Nunavut was created. This was already made clear earlier; I just wanted to restate it. Article 23 of the land claims agreement spells out what is required for

the government regarding Inuit employment.

At the same time, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have to look at all the people of Nunavut, not just a few. We cannot just take action in reaction to the views of a few. We also know that when we're drafting a bill to change the *Public Service Act*, it could take a long time. We already know that putting together legislative proposals is a lengthy process, having experienced that with a number of bills. Bills always originate from the same place. I agree with the members who spoke about these issues and the fact that this would incur significant changes.

Furthermore, when we're talking about the 2017-18 and 2017-2020 main estimates, I can only state that it would reach to the beginning of the new government and the new government would be sort of (interpretation ends) handcuffed, (interpretation) kind of like a prisoner. We cannot force the next government into that decision as they will need to formulate their own direction. We cannot unilaterally decide that and (interpretation ends) cannot handcuff the next government.

(interpretation) As per my earlier statement, the (interpretation ends) legislative proposal (interpretation) is never finalized immediately. If we're going to be making changes to the main estimates, it's too much of a concern because we can't handcuff the new government and we can't make the changes overnight. I wanted to make that statement, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Comments to the motion. Mr. Mike.

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Since we are in a debate, I am quite pleased to be involved and I want to provide some commentary on the land claims agreement. Back when the Nunavut government was newly established, even when I had no idea I would be in government, I held challenging positions within organizations under the Inuit associations.

Once when I was travelling and passing through Toronto, I happened to see an advertisement for a position with the GN. When I took the time to completely look over every aspect of this job advertisement, I found out this position would get housing. I am talking about a situation many years ago. When I returned to Iqaluit, since I was living in Iqaluit and I cannot recall if I was the president of QC or NCC, that particular job advertisement was also advertised in Iqaluit. When I saw that ad, it stated that no housing was available for the job. This caused a great deal of concern to me, but I rarely see that happening anymore.

I want to provide some comments that pertain to my election to this position and this motion. During my campaign for the Pangnirtung Riding, I was very candid in informing the residents of Pangnirtung that if elected as their representative, I would focus on the implementation of the land claims agreement.

I can provide a specific example. For many years, NTI fought to take the federal government to court over the lack of implementation of the land claims agreement, where they requested compensation of \$1 billion for losses. It

took many years for this court case to fulfill the process. There were no additional funds to assist with economic development as promised in the land claims agreement. I believe nothing really happened in this front for about eight or ten years.

At the end, they were compensated over \$250 million a couple of years ago. This government worked closely with NTI and I saw that firsthand. Out of the process, \$250 million will be flowing into their coffers over the non-implementation of Article 23 and although it wasn't quite \$250 million, it is still much better than having no funds to implement it. We also heard that only \$5,000 was set aside for training purposes, but I may be mistaken.

Nonetheless, what I want to state here is that there were negotiations for the land claims agreement, Article 23 was researched, and the Makigiaqta training corporation was created. This is the first time I am involved. I was elected in 2013 and I don't see the need to make any changes, as there is room for improvements.

If the federal government had not been taken to court, the \$250 million would not have surfaced and we may have lost funds that would have been put towards this goal. However, this process played out already and I am happy to see that.

As Nunavummiut, our ultimate goal is the full implementation of the land claims agreement. I have not given up on this goal of the need to hire Inuit. This initiative will finally produce results as we now have funding specifically for this, as it was not even funded

previously. There was nothing set aside for training programs.

I have not seen any successes outside of Nunavut which I want members to know. I have no sense of pride in programs operated outside of Nunavut, as I cannot participate in other jurisdictions.

This particular attempt to create the commission is something I like as a system, but the particular motion in my opinion will set aside all the progress we have made to date. We are finally seeing progress on Article 23. The first, second, third and fourth governments did not have any programs toward this goal, and I can ask myself what the previous government was doing. What was their ultimate goal related to the land claims agreement? This is why I note this motion does not even mention the land claims agreement in any way, which is the only means for Inuit to realize their goals.

I will be opposing this motion, which I want members to be aware, based on the comments I am currently making, especially in light of the fact that I have finally started to see progress on this front and specific funds geared towards implementing Article 23. Due to this reason and the contents, which I am not saying are misleading, our role is to work towards that, obviously.

Due to these issues, I wanted to voice my concerns and that I will oppose this motion. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends)  
Comments to the motion. I wish to inform the committee that I have no

more names on my list. Does the mover have any last reply? Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank everybody for their comments. I would like a recorded vote, please.

**Chairman:** Thank you. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand and then sit down when I have called your name.

Ms. Angnakak.

Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Enook.

Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Qirngnuq.

All those opposed, please stand and then sit down when I call your name.

Mr. Mike.

Mr. Kuksuk.

Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Taptuna.

Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Quassa.

Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Mr. Peterson.

All those abstaining, please stand and then sit down. There are no abstentions.

Members, the results of the votes are as follows: number who voted for the motion, 12; number who voted against the motion, 8. The motion has been carried. Mr. Quassa.

**Hon. Paul Quassa:** Mr. Chairman, I move a motion to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) and would like to report that Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) are concluded and that one committee motion was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I

move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Is there a seconder? Mr. Mapsalak. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at ten o'clock tomorrow in the Nanuq Room.

*Orders of the Day* for June 8:

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

14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 16
- Bill 19

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

- Bill 17
- Bill 18

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 Wednesday, June 8, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:36*



