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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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

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Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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Hon. Joe Savikataaq
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Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, February 28, 2017

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. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>House commenced at 13:29

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and visitors, welcome to the House.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 248 – 4(3):
National Housing Strategy**

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon, my colleagues, residents of

Arviat and Whale Cove, as well as my fellow Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to address the Legislative Assembly today about the ongoing development of a national housing strategy.

The Government of Nunavut has been working hard with the federal government as well as provincial and territorial colleagues to advance the development of the strategy, which aims to ensure that all Canadians have access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing.

Mr. Speaker, the initiative marks the first time a strategic long-term approach has been undertaken to address housing issues faced by Canadians across the country.

I am pleased to say that the Government of Nunavut, through the Nunavut Housing Corporation, has been working closely with our tri-territorial partners in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories to ensure that northern housing will be a key priority of the National Housing Strategy.

As we all know, Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is facing a severe housing crisis that we are working hard to address. Many of the issues we face at home are similar to those faced in the other two territories, and through these shared challenges we have come together to ensure that the Government of Canada recognizes the serious housing needs that are unique to the north.

Mr. Speaker, more details of the federal, provincial and territorial partnership on

the National Housing Strategy will be established as we develop a multilateral framework this year. As the strategy continues to develop, we will continue our efforts to ensure that housing in the territories remains a priority.

We are hopeful that a comprehensive national housing strategy will be aligned to longer term housing funding and can be coordinated with the implementation of the Government of Nunavut's own *Blueprint for Action on Housing*.

Only through shared action can provincial, territorial and federal governments streamline collective efforts to improve the housing situation for Canadians and demonstrate their commitment to increase access to safe, affordable and sustainable housing across the country.

I look forward to updating my colleagues as the strategy continues to develop throughout the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 249 – 4(3):
Retirement of David Monteith**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the many years of outstanding service that Mr. David Monteith has provided to the people of Nunavut.

David is retiring from his position as Director of Parks and Special Places

within the Department of Environment after a career with the government which stretches back to before Nunavut was even created.

Mr. Monteith first came to the north in 1970 and after several years working for the Hudson's Bay Company and the Arctic Co-ops, he joined the Government of the Northwest Territories back in 1981 working as the area economic development officer with responsibilities for Pond Inlet, Nanisivik, and Arctic Bay. He later became the regional tourism and parks officer for the Qikiqtaaluk region.

With the creation of Nunavut, David became its first director of parks and tourism, and he has been the director of parks and special places for the last 12 years, working tirelessly to preserve and promote Nunavut's natural heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I would like David Monteith to stand up, please.

Mr. Speaker, David Monteith's contribution to the Government of Nunavut and my department in particular has been invaluable, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his many years of services and thank him for all the work that he has done and a happy retirement. He's just going to a different phase of his life; he's not disappearing. Mr. David Monteith, I thank you for the many years of service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 250 – 4(3): New Oxygen Equipment at Hospital

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our continued effort to deliver health care using the latest technology, I am pleased to announce that the new continuous positive airway pressure equipment, commonly known as CPAP, is in use at Qikiqtani General Hospital here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, CPAP is a device that continuously blows either regular air or air with added oxygen into the nose or into both the mouth and nose. CPAP helps keep the airway open and improves levels of oxygen in the blood.

Mr. Speaker, though CPAP can be used for all ages, this device has improved outcomes for newborns, especially babies who are either premature or full term who need a little help with their breathing. Prior to CPAP, the only option was to place a tube down their airway to assist breathing which would require babies to be medevaced south.

Mr. Speaker, we're already seeing the benefit of CPAP in reducing the need for medevacs. I look forward to the continued successful use of this equipment in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Minister's Statement 251 – 4(3): QEC Apprenticeship Program

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to share with you about the success of two new skilled trades employees of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. In September 2016 Jarvis Towtongie and Amauyaq Lindell received their certificates of completion as heavy equipment technicians through the QEC Apprenticeship Program. Both technicians are now working full time for the QEC in their hometown of Rankin Inlet.

As a former skilled trades worker myself, I'm well aware of the effort and commitment required to attain certified journey person status. The QEC's Apprenticeship Program offers an excellent opportunity for Inuit who are looking to pursue a career in the skilled trade sector. The QEC program supports the Government of Nunavut's top priority to develop and grow our territory's pool of skilled Inuit through Article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* in order to keep pace with Nunavut's steady growth.

Mr. Speaker, the QEC continues to be one of the most successful organizations in hiring, training, and retaining Nunavut Inuit employees. Education programs, such as the QEC's apprenticeship scheme, reduce our dependence on hiring skilled workers from outside of Nunavut and enable Inuit to take advantage of employment and training opportunities within our territory.

Government support of apprenticeship programs invests in the future of our people so that our goal to have a public sector workforce that reflects the Inuit population can be achieved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Before we proceed, I have an announcement to make.

You probably noticed that Alexander Sammurtok, Member for Rankin Inlet South, will not be in the House all week for personal reasons. Thank you.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 468 – 4(3): Wishing a Safe Hunting Season for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my Member's Statement, I would like to wish Mr. Monteith a happy retirement. Just so that people know, in 1976 he was the Hudson's Bay manager in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the opening day of Sanikiluaq's annual polar bear hunt. Mr. Speaker, I usually take advantage of Sanikiluaq's annual bear hunt to spend quality time hunting with my son. Unfortunately I will not be able to spend this hunting season in the community.

However, I am grateful that I am able to use my time to day in the House to stress the importance of these hunts, which provide communities across Nunavut with the opportunity to spend time on the land and sea. Many of us here today have experienced first hand the joy that seasonal hunts bring to our communities and the people.

I would like to wish my son and all the hunters in Sanikiluaq a safe and successful hunt. Remember to take all precautions before embarking on your journey. Dress warm, bring the necessary equipment, tell someone in the community where you plan to travel, when you plan to return, and bring a hunting buddy. I encourage everyone to bring with them a SPOT device and, if you cannot access one, bring some other sort of communications equipment in case of an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, effective wildlife management and conservation of the land will ensure that Nunavummiut are able to enjoy these important traditions for years to come. I look forward to hearing more about the government's plans in these areas as we continue to consider its budget during this sitting.

Even more so I look forward to hearing the stories from everyone back home, including my son, about this year's polar bear hunt.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing everyone in Sanikiluaq a very safe and happy hunting season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 469 – 4(3): Qajaq-making Initiative at Netsilik High School

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the

people of Taloyoak. I say “good day” to everyone in the House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House about a positive initiative at Taloyoak’s Netsilik High School.

Mr. Speaker, during a recent constituency visit to Taloyoak, I took the opportunity to spend some time at the high school.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and all of my colleagues will have the opportunity to visit the school. When you enter the school, you will feel warmly welcomed and you will appreciate the effort that has been made to have the school reflect our culture and traditions.

Mr. Speaker, in January of this year over a dozen students participated in a project to construct traditional kayaks. This project, which was taught in the Inuit language, provided an excellent opportunity for elders to share their traditional skills and knowledge with youth.

At the same time the students were able to share their work with a wider audience by using modern social media tools and the Internet, and I encourage members to visit Netsilik High School’s Facebook page.

A number of elders were consulted in this work, and I would like to thank and acknowledge Simon Oleekatalik, Iola Takolik, Sarah Takolik, Rhoda Nanook, Abraham Ukuqtunnuaq, Nauyaq Ugyuk, and David Nanook. I also wish to thank and acknowledge Netsilik High School Teacher George Hill for his hard work in

making this project a success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member’s Statement 470 – 4(3):
Recognition of Volunteer
Firefighters**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge a firefighter that was recognized and honoured. Volunteer firefighters work long hours while keeping an eye on us.

One of my constituents from Qikiqtarjuaq, Billy Mikoalik, just had two recognitions. He received a long service award from the Nunavut government for his 20 years of service and a Jubilee Medal for his 30 years of service as a fire chief.

Though firefighters don’t get paid, they do a lot of work. Every day they remind us through the radio and other media about hazards that may start fires that people should be aware of. We hear them daily on the radio, even though they don’t get paid to do their work. We need to be really proud of those people. They do a lot of good work even though they don’t make any money and they give themselves to the service.

I want everyone to join me in congratulating Billy Mikoalik for his 30 years of service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 471 – 4(3):
Traditional Inuit Customs**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome to the visitors in the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll talk about something that is very important to us: the Inuit way of counselling. Mr. Speaker, today I'm going to talk about something that I never hear in the House, which is part of the issue I am really passionate about.

Back then Inuit were called "Eskimos" and that was what the outside world knew as Inuit. One of the traditional practices no longer in practice today was used heavily back when Inuit were called "Eskimos."

When we were called "Eskimos," this included an identification disk. My own number was E5-883, pretty much similar to a polar bear tag. Today I see myself in that situation as a polar bear, as we had to wear that disk like a polar bear with a tag which identified each person.

Mr. Speaker, back in those days families were largely run by parents and elders. Any conflicts were resolved immediately and not allowed to fester. This applied irrespective of whether the person was an adult or if a couple had issues or if a person was causing problems. It was dealt with by elders similar to today's courts. The immediate resolution of the problem resulted in better lives being led.

Further, all children were admonished never to talk back to an adult or anyone older than themselves, including their parents. This was one of the Inuit laws. With this as a background, it showcases how our lives were less stressful.

I would like to ask for 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) I don't hear any nays. Mr. Shooyook, please proceed.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for giving me an opportunity to conclude my statement.

This is an important issue that I often talk about, although I won't talk as go-along, get-along elder so long as I'm a member of this house.

Back in the days when we were called "Eskimos," children were brought up in this manner: whenever a subject was discussed that was considered unsuitable for the children to hear, the children would be sent out to play. With the child gone, people would air their differences, make up, and settle the issues at hand.

Being a child was like this: if a child happens to hear discussion that is frightening, it would cause the child to have an unhappy adulthood because of the disturbing things they heard. This demonstrates how wise our elders were, but it's not the same today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we will need to take better care of our children in the future. We must take a look at our ancestors' traditions and starting using their best practices. What we have heard and seen has caused a lot of pain we experience today. I want to ask for your support to try to bring back what was good in the old days.

I miss the kind of lives we had when we were called "Eskimos" and if we could bring back some aspects to our lives today, even if it doesn't fix things right away, it will help healing in the long run. That is my reason for talking about being an Eskimo, Mr. Speaker. When I have the opportunity later on, I will relate how being called "Inuit" has had detrimental effects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 472 – 4(3): My Father's Land – By Zacharias Kunuk

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish residents of my community a good day, as well as my fellow Inuit and colleagues.

I rise today to acknowledge this person who has received numerous awards and is recognizable to all Nunavummiut, as he is here in town, and I will provide a bit of a background.

Mr. Zacharias Kunuk is passing by on his way south. As we all know, he is a

respected filmmaker and he just recently released a new film. I will state the title in English. (interpretation ends) *My Father's Land* (interpretation) is the title and it is called the same in Inuktitut. The film he produced speaks to today's developments, as today we have mining companies that arrive into our ancestral lands and Inuit are involved in these projects, with consultation and environmental reviews of the potential impacts on our lives.

Now, this film voices the position of Inuit, as mining companies are exploring vast swathes of lands. Most of the lands up here were inhabited by our fathers and wherever Inuit were, the fathers spent time on the lands. These companies are working on our fathers' lands, including other types of companies. It voices the concerns about this issue. If the film is like his previous offerings, it will be an intriguing film to watch.

The film will be aired in Ottawa starting on March 2. It is obvious that many here will want to watch that film as well, and I believe it lasts for about three hours. The film is part of the reason why I wanted to add to recognizing Zacharias Kunuk as we know of his past work. These days the community of Igloolik is called the (interpretation ends) Hollywood of the North (interpretation) as it is a community producing many films.

I wanted to provide a brief background and when we reach the appropriate item, I will ensure that I acknowledge Zacharias Kunuk further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 473 – 4(3):
RCMP Public Engagement in
Kugluktuk**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the RCMP plays a vital and very important role in our communities. It can be stressful, dangerous, and also rewarding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that last summer to see the RCMP in Kugluktuk being very proactive. The RCMP in Kugluktuk was using different tactics to provide all-terrain vehicle safety. The local officers were giving out rewards to those who were well prepared.

Mr. Speaker, the RCMP officers were going out in search of drivers with protective gear, helmets, and other protective clothing when driving their ATVs. They're working with a number of retailers, including the local Co-op and Northern store to offer prizes each week.

Mr. Speaker, policing in any community or jurisdiction is tough, but to see the RCMP being proactive like this in Kugluktuk and hearing the very positive feedback from the community was very encouraging. I want to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate our local RCMP officers in Kugluktuk for being proactive with ATV safety and showing a very positive side of

community policing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 474 – 4(3):
Arctic College Foundation Course
Students**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an MLA we are often called to attend events outside of the very important work that we do here at the Legislative Assembly.

Last year Minister Hickes and I had the pleasure of being invited to speak to the students of the college foundation course that's delivered here at Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, with invitations such as this, it provides a great opportunity for MLAs to speak about the legislative process and what being an MLA is all about.

Today I have the pleasure in having the college foundation course come to our workplace to see us all in action. At the appropriate time I will be welcoming and introducing them in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

**Member's Statement 475 – 4(3):
Respecting Our Elders**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We meet with elders occasionally and they advise us, and I remember the advice that I got from an elder from Cape Dorset when there was an advisory committee. The Speaker is supposed to be called “Uqaqtittiji,” the person who allows other people to speak. That is how I have been calling the Speaker up to this time.

I'm always grateful for the elders who have advised us in the past, especially my late parents. They always spoke only in Inuktitut, but they always advised me and kept me going. To this day I try to follow the things that they asked me to do. I'm very happy about them and I would like them to continue.

We get advice from elders when we are meeting in the House here and they see that we speak a lot of English. I encourage the other MLAs that can speak Inuktitut to use that language so that our elders can understand what we're saying. Let's welcome our elders and follow their advice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 476 – 4(3):
Recognizing Embassy of
Imagination**

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, or do I use the other term for the Speaker? I am unsure which

term I should use, but I use the term “*uqaqti*,” so I will just continue using that term, although I also understand the other one used for the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and voice my congratulations related to the (interpretation ends) Embassy of Imagination (interpretation) that works in partnership with youth via printmaking and artwork in Cape Dorset. For the past three years the group has invited youth to various southern locations to paint murals on sides of buildings to enhance the neighbourhoods.

Mr. Speaker, on February 19 near the end of last week, Tommy Quvianatuliak and Parr Josephie were invited to participate in the Embassy of Imagination project just outside of Toronto in Mississauga. They were able to paint huge murals on several buildings and part of the work was shown. They also fundraised for future work on this project.

Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for opportunities such as these, as our youth have been able to travel to various places and showcase their artwork, whether it is drawing, painting, or group murals. They work together to paint these murals and this includes the feelings of pride upon completing the work.

I wanted to express my gratitude to the (interpretation ends) Embassy of Imagination. (interpretation) I further expect that this summer there will be more projects to either show the artwork or to continue painting murals on the side of buildings. If you happen to see a mural done by the Cape Dorset youth, let us share more encouraging words that

allow them to continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

**Member's Statement 477 – 4(3):
Nunavut Black History Month**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This being February 28, the last day of Black History Month, I wanted to take this time to thank the Nunavut Black History Society for all the different events that they held here in Iqaluit throughout the month of February. I had the distinct pleasure of participating in a number of events that they put on, ending with a grand finale here at the cadet hall on Sunday of which I saw some of my colleagues there.

Mr. Speaker, they did a meld this year of Nunavut Inuit fashions from Rannva Designs in addition to a countless number of very colourful traditional wear from different African and Caribbean regions. Unfortunately I had to leave just before the food was served, but I'm sure as always, with all the previous events that I have attended there, it was exceptional.

I just want to really thank the Nunavut Black History Society for all the hard work that it takes to put in. They have been expanding the number of events that they have been having every year and I just want to congratulate them on a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure these people will get recognized as the day goes on, but I just wanted to bring attention to a couple of people that live in my constituency.

Jesse Flaherty lives just down the street from me and I see him walking around, going to work and going to school. I have always spoken to him very encouragingly about continuing his academic studies. I would like to welcome Jesse Flaherty to the Chamber.

In addition, one of the instructors, I believe, still lives in my riding. Nicole Journal, I really appreciate you coming into the Chamber today.

If I missed anyone, my apologies, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an individual for whom his career is his whole life. He has been recognized and that is David

Monteith. I would like to welcome you to the gallery and thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a statement about him earlier, but I would like to recognize Saqqaliasi Kunuk. His name is Zacharias Kunuk in English, but it is Saqqaliasi in Inuktitut.

I have known him for many years and I can recall we went caribou hunting when we were young. At that time we were stuck out on the land for seven days. We were finally found when we were starving, and here we are today.

>>Laughter

My friend is a filmmaker and I am sitting in the House as an MLA. I would like to recognize Mr. Zacharias Kunuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat and Whale Cove, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That was a funny story we just heard from my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, it is not very often I recognize people, but it's always good to recognize our friends and the people we know. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take

this opportunity to recognize an individual. I was once young with the person I would like to recognize. She moved to Arviat when she was very young and we went to school together. I am very glad to see her today. Please welcome Sarah Flynn to the gallery. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Minister's Statement I acknowledged David Monteith's retirement, but I would like to acknowledge him now, Mr. David Monteith, and his wife, Sylvia Renaude. He will be retired and I'm pretty sure that his wife has a big to-do list that David can slowly work on and get rid of now because he will have more time to do that.

>>Laughter

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize Sarah Flynn, who used to live in Arviat. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of my constituents. Every time I see him, he seems to be getting taller all the time. His name is Michael Jewell. Last year I

think he was one of the Northern Youth Abroad students at that time. He's training to become an environmental technologist. Welcome to the House.

Also, although this next person is not my constituent, he is my nephew. I would like to recognize David Akoak, the younger one.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not too often I get to recognize visitors to the gallery. Fortunately today I get to recognize two individuals from Sanikiluaq who are here in Iqaluit attending Arctic College taking the Environmental Technology Program. I would like to welcome Jonah Kittosuk and Mick Appaqaq to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, it's very rare that I have the opportunity to recognize any individual in the gallery. I would like to recognize someone who is not my constituent, but he is my wife's brother. Attima Hadlari has helped us

tremendously in our region and he has helped with the Arctic Winter Games for many years. I would like to recognize him in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize an individual from my constituency. Her name is Jenny Mosesie and she participates in sports representing Nunavut. She is an athlete who plays different sports and we're very proud of her. She's a hard worker and is now one of the students who are taking the Environmental Technology Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this individual has already been recognized by my colleague across the way, the individual lives in my riding now and has lived there for many decades. In fact he's almost my next door neighbour. I would like to again welcome Attima Hadlari to the gallery. Welcome, Attima.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of

Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would first of all like to recognize Karen Nungaq from Kimmirut, who is taking courses here. The other person I would like to recognize is Letia Qiatsiuk, who is one of the instructors of the Interpreter/Translator Program.

The third individual I would like to recognize is a snowboarder from the highest community in Nunavut, Etuangat Akeeagok. You can watch the videos that he has posted on the Internet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Steve Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person who was already recognized by the members from Arviat. She was born in Naujaat, where she is originally from. I would like to welcome Sarah Flynn to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is finally my turn.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize once again the people who are here from Nunavut Arctic College. Please rise when I call your name. Angela Nakasuk, Felix Nikki Pisco, Jesse Flaherty, Mandy Tatty, and their instructor, Nicole Journal, welcome to the gallery. I am glad that you are here.

>>Applause

I would also like to recognize an individual who was already recognized, but Etuangat Akeeagok is my grandson. Welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. We will proceed with the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 621 – 4(3): Government of Nunavut Responses to Motions

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

My first question is very simple: can the Premier confirm what direction he has given to his cabinet ministers regarding the importance of respecting motions that are formally approved by the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I have not given any kind of direction for the minister to look at. On November 6, 2014 there was a motion made to review and do a comprehensive study on the models of a board of governance and the different types of models we could look at where it would fit the purposes of running the Qikiqtani General Hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I was referring specifically to that, but just formal motions in the House that have been passed since we were elected. This one is a little bit more specific.

On November 5, 2015 the Legislative Assembly voted in favour of a formal motion that was moved by the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk and seconded by the Member of Arviat South. The Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk's motion called on the government to produce a report on the activities of its Energy Secretariat. The government respected the will of the House and the report that the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk requested was tabled in the House on June 8, 2016.

Will the Premier ensure that the government shows the same respect in reference to the motion that was passed by the Legislative Assembly concerning the establishment of a board of management for the Qikiqtani General Hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Premier of Nunavut, the Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that excellent question. I designate the duties of the appropriate ministers for the appropriate motions that were made through the House. Again, when it came to the review of the different types of models of governing the Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit here, there was a motion put forth to table reports.

I encourage the member to work with the minister. If that's going to be the case, there are different models with pros and cons to them and a report on the comprehensive study is available. There is no real indication of why the member can't speak with the minister and find out all the details of the investigation and the review. As the member is well aware, the type of model selected by cabinet and the department is a first step forward.

As members all know, a board of governors for the hospital would entail divesting the financials, the staff, corporate files, and everything into the board of governors. We're not in that position yet. We don't have the capacity to do that, but the first step is an advisory board. That's the first initial step in finding out exactly what capabilities and capacities we can work with.

Again, we all like to fly a big jet plane, but at this point you can't go from flying an ultra light to flying a big jet and so we've got to take it step by step. It's a huge undertaking when you divest all your finances, resources, and people to a

board of governors. One day that's possible once all the capacities are built in, but this first step is initial to understand exactly where we sit and understand our capabilities of divesting the financials, resources, and the Department of Health to a board of governors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think my question was answered. It's more to do with the will of the House and about motions, not so much any more about what the motion was about, but the will of the House has not been respected, in my opinion.

Another motion that was passed by the Legislative Assembly concerned the development of strategy and action plan to address the needs of Nunavut's elders. This motion was passed on March 16, 2016 and the Premier spoke eloquently in favour of the motion. Can he update the House today on the status of the government's response to this motion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I admire the tenacity of the member across.

When we make motions, we intend to try to follow through. At this point the Elders Strategy is a work of many departments. Once we have approval through cabinet to table a strategy, I will certainly do that. Mr. Speaker, there are processes that we've got to follow

through within the government. That is one process where I intend to put it through the cabinet to make sure that it's approved for tabling.

Also, since we're speaking about various different motions, the Elders Strategy is a document that I started and I spoke about that. That is why I put senior advocacy into my department so things can flow easier for our seniors, our elders, where they're trying to get services for themselves. When you have to work with seven or eight different departments to help our seniors and elders, it is very difficult. Through this process, putting the seniors file into EIA, where I manage and coordinate that, is a step easier for our seniors in Nunavut.

Once the strategy is done and approved through cabinet, I will certainly table it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 622 – 4(3): Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As I said in my Member's Statement yesterday, the community of Qikiqtarjuaq deserves a clear explanation as to why the Government of Nunavut did not submit the proposal for a new Qikiqtarjuaq marine facility to the federal government for consideration under the New Building Canada Fund.

I will ask the same question today: what were the specific reasons for why the proposal for a new Qikiqtarjuaq marine facility was not submitted to the federal government for consideration under the New Building Canada Fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising the question on behalf of his constituents. The projects that are requested by the communities are generally quite complex, especially with many infrastructure projects that are required here in Nunavut. Whenever the government reviews capital projects, it is sent to a review committee that includes representatives from all Government of Nunavut departments and there are three main criteria used to conduct these reviews.

The first one is the prioritization of the project, whether it is an important need and what concerns result from not approving the project. The first criterion represents approximately 40 percent of the score, which is slightly lower than 50 percent, and it revolves around (interpretation ends) health and safety.

(interpretation) The second criterion that needs to be reviewed is (interpretation ends) programs and services (interpretation) that provide benefits and whether we have (interpretation ends) mandated programs and services. (interpretation) Furthermore, what

development would follow the project is set at a lower scale.

It is primarily a (interpretation ends) rating system (interpretation) and the process follows the outlined procedures within the legislation. I can provide the information to the member so that he can completely comprehend the process. I will make a copy available to him.

With the many requests being reviewed, what I can tell you is that we submitted 19 projects to the federal government in 2014. The project request from Qikiqtarjuaq was rated at 16 out of the submissions, which did not get selected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my Member's Statement yesterday, I was pleased that the minister has expressed willingness to have her officials sit down with the Municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq to examine ways to improve the existing business case for the proposed Qikiqtarjuaq marine facility. When will her officials be contacting the municipality to schedule a meeting? 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 my colleague for his question. During our meeting, the member asked me if I could visit the community of Qikiqtarjuaq and I still plan to go to there. Just this morning my

officials asked me when we would be available to go, and I told them I would like to make plans for after the winter session, perhaps, to visit the community of Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to providing a formal update on the status of the proposed new Qikiqtarjuaq marine facility during our upcoming spring sitting, yes or no? 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. We have been continually working on that. We expect that the federal government will announce its decision after they look at the budget. Once that process is completed, I'll be able to pursue this matter with you and your community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 623 – 4(3): Accommodations for Government Employees on Medical Travel

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

Many members here have relatives living in different communities who travel to Iqaluit. Just recently one of my relatives from Pangnirtung came in to town to have her baby. She was told that she would remain for an entire month. Since she is working for the GN, they set up a hotel room for her stay.

However, she received information later on that her hotel room was only booked for a week and that after the week passed, another reservation would be needed. Most expectant mothers stay for a month, which is what was provided as information. I feel that this is unnecessary added stress for an expectant mother, and care should be taken not to overly cause concern to expectant mothers.

Can the minister look into this matter and resolve this government employee's predicament? I would like to see this resolved as this government employee may be required to stay for up to a month. Human resources should be directed to fix this reservation issue to ensure that our employees who are required to stay longer don't have to continually request room reservations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had mentioned through the Committee of the Whole proceedings, it's a continual challenge strictly due to the volume alone to be able to provide accommodations for all the people that travel to Iqaluit for medical travel.

We do work with the contractor and the contractor has an obligation, if there's no

room at the boarding home, to find alternative accommodations. That's done either through hotels, as the member mentioned, boarding homes, billets, bed and breakfasts. It is a continual challenge. The facility is overcapacity on average 30 percent of the year, which is quite substantial. There have been discussions with the group that owns the facility. They're exploring options for expansion. I look forward to further discussions on that topic.

That being said, it is a challenge. Hotel accommodations, as an example, the boarding home staff work with the hotels, but if there is room at the boarding home, the preference and the contract obligations are for them to be at the boarding home. If rooms open up, there may be a need for people to move accommodations. Typically once they're in the boarding home, they shouldn't have to move again.

On some occasions, especially the elders with mobility issues, there are circumstances where people are asked if they would relinquish their room if it's a handicap room, as an example, to assist people with mobility issues. We have some rooms that have no carpet that assist people with allergies.

I do appreciate the member's concern and it's something the department is very aware of and we're exploring different options to find solutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Government employees don't stay at the Tammaativvik Boarding

Home and I wanted to clarify that. All government employees are housed in hotels and they don't stay at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. That is the practice of the government.

Some have been advised that they may be required to stay for a month, but their hotel reservations are only set for one week. What would happen to the government employee in that situation? Where would they stay? This is how stressful it can be. We should be providing more support to our employees during stressful periods and when they require health care.

I would like to know if the minister can look further into this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Hon. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies to the member; I misunderstood the first question. He did mention it was a government employee and I should have caught that portion of it.

That being said, I will have my staff look into medical travel and employee travel for the length of stay that they're anticipated to be here and look at different options for better evaluating the length of time a hotel is booked for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Question 624 – 4(3): Housing in Arctic Bay

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

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year included funding for the construction of five new staff housing units for Arctic Bay. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of construction of these units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have referenced these issues continually whenever one of my colleagues raises a question on it. This project is on schedule for the planned work. However, they have not received the materials because the planned work was just approved that includes many communities. To date the plans we have for that are on schedule. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He didn't answer my question.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year also included funding for the construction of five new public housing

units for Arctic Bay. What was the reason for the construction not starting even though the material was there? What was the reason for not beginning construction of staff housing units this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I understand his question now. I think I might have misunderstood him. The construction will begin this upcoming summer. I thought he asked that question on what the reasons are. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information right now and I cannot respond to his question, but I will look into his question with my officials. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. As the minister will recall, I asked questions last week to the Minister of Health concerning the importance of ensuring proper housing for nurses in our communities. Can the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicate how the Nunavut Housing Corporation works with the Department of Health to plan for staff housing needs in our communities?

I wonder if this project will commence when the weather starts to warm up. Will this project commence in Arctic Bay in

the spring? Can the minister provide clarification on whether it will commence in the spring or summer or after the summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can inform my colleague. I will look into where it stands. As soon as I get the information, I can provide it to my colleague as to when the construction will begin, where it stands, and what the reasons are. Once I have that information, I will get back to the member during this sitting. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 625 – 4(3): Language Proficiency in the Public Service

Mr. Joanasi (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this is the last day of Inuktitut Language Month here in Nunavut, my questions are for the Minister of Finance regarding language.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, I am a strong proponent of bilingualism in our government, especially with respect to positions that provide services directly to members of the general public, many of whom are unilingual speakers of the Inuit language.

The government's most recent *Public Service Annual Report* indicates that a total of \$1.84 million in bilingual

bonuses was paid during the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, in the federal government, positions in the public service are classified according to their official language requirements. Some positions require candidates to be fluently bilingual, but other positions require either English or French proficiency.

I would like to ask the minister: can he indicate approximately how many positions in the government require employees to be fluently bilingual in both the Inuit language and English or French? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I don't have that level of detail in my binder sitting here. That's the stuff I wouldn't have. The types of positions he would be asking about would be interpreters, translators, legal translators, and linguists. We do encourage our employees to use the Inuktitut language, so we have the bilingual bonuses.

We are working on a replacement bilingual bonus program - it's old and outdated - with a more current method which will allow us to do proficiency testing of different positions to pay people with the level of competency in a different language. We are working on that with a couple of our partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That leads me right to my other question. It is important that the government introduce official language proficiency assessment tools that are fair, objective, and consistent. During the Legislative Assembly's recent fall sitting, the government's formal response to our standing committee's report on its televised hearings on the annual reports of the Languages Commissioner and the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The response indicates that, and I quote, "The Government of Nunavut anticipates the full implementation of the Inuit Language Incentive Program starting in 2017-2018.

The Department of Culture and Heritage and the Department of Finance have been collaborating with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit on this important initiative."

Can the minister update the House today on the status of introducing standardized language proficiency tests for the purpose of determining eligibility for bilingual bonuses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A draft Inuit language incentive policy has been developed, but it is undergoing internal consultations with various committees. I believe the plan is to roll it out for some pilot testing later this year. As far as I know, in this government we understand that it's on schedule, as responded to the committee last fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Section 12 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* requires every territorial institution to, and I quote, "identify and implement measures to increase the use of the Inuit Language as a working language of the institution." Can the minister clarify which department of the government has the primary responsibility of ensuring that this requirement is met? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I understand the question correctly, but the finance department develops our policies and programs. We ensure employees are compensated properly once certified. Currently we have the bilingual bonus. Like I said, that's outdated. We're going to move to the proficiency test. We will be working on that. The IUT is responsible for all aspects of testing the language competency of employees. We will rely on their expertise and go from there.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs develops the training programs that allow our employees to move between the certification levels. They also develop training programs to allow employees to take training in the Inuit language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 626 – 4(3): Airport Infrastructure

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

Last year the minister tabled her department's *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment*. This report indicates that Baker Lake's airport is one of four airports in the territory that require, and I quote, "substantial upgrades to their existing ATB facilities to address building system faults or major structural items."

Can the minister confirm whether her department will be seeking funding in next year's capital estimates to address these issues? 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 my colleague. My colleague knows very well how the capital projects are dealt with. It will only be the newly elected government that will be able to make that decision. We know that in the 20-year infrastructure needs assessment that we put out, the Baker Lake Airport is included in the list of airports that need to be worked on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicates that, and I quote, "New GPS approach procedures have been prepared for Arviat, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq and Kimmirut. These procedures improve descent limits, increasing the likelihood of landing in poor weather. (...) Five other airports have been identified that could benefit from approach procedures without infrastructure improvements; ten others first require infrastructure improvements."

Can the minister clarify where Baker Lake's airport stands in this list? 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 that question. With respect to the (interpretation ends) GPS approach (interpretation) system, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, as my colleague referred to seven communities, has completed three of the seven projects and we are currently developing further funding requests to complete this work.

With respect to Baker Lake, the (interpretation ends) GPS instrument procedures, (interpretation) as it is called, were introduced in April 2015 and a report was provided on the type of landing issues. Baker Lake was noted as not having too many issues with the

airport approach. The report will be given to my colleague from Baker Lake when it's ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to revisit the issue of the federal government's response to the recommendation, as the minister indicated, contained in the final report of the *Canada Transportation Act Review Panel* concerning the establishment of a new "Northern Airports Capital Assistance Program."

In her responses to questions on this issue that were asked last week by my colleague from South Baffin, our Minister of ED&T stated that her federal counterpart, Minister Garneau, travelled to Nunavut last year. I assume that our minister raised this issue with her federal counterpart.

Can the minister indicate what the federal minister's response was to the idea of establishing a new "Northern Airports Capital Assistance Program"? 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. Yes, on July 8, 2016 the federal Minister of Transportation, Mr. Marc Garneau, travelled here to Iqaluit. We had a meeting with the minister on this (interpretation ends) *Canada*

Transportation Act Review (interpretation) Panel and laid out many issues related to the needs here in Nunavut that we want to request. This was called (interpretation ends) Nunavut needs, (interpretation) so to speak, and we discussed these issues. We were able to explain the many gaps and numerous infrastructure deficits.

I will be able to provide further details to my colleague on the work done to date and what responses we have received related to his request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Colleagues, before I go to the next member to ask questions, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize two young siblings, the brother is Lloyd Satuqsi, please rise, and Jasmine Satuqsi.

Now I share with Lloyd my immense gratitude to the searchers who are part of the search and rescue group. If it weren't for them, then the hunters would still not have been found today. Lloyd's toes were quite frostbitten, but he is able to be here with us. Welcome to the House.

>> *Applause*

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Question 627 – 4(3): Dental Insurance

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier during the sitting I addressed the issue of a child who was denied dental care because his parents did not have private insurance. I thank

the minister for agreeing to look into the details of that specific case. However, the broader issue of how dental insurance is provided for Nunavut residents is still a concern to me.

Mr. Speaker, not all Nunavut residents are fortunate enough to have employer-provided health and dental insurance. In some cases even the government's dental insurance plan does not cover all dental services. Inuit are eligible for some dental services under the federal Non-Insured Health Benefits program, but even then not all dental services are covered. It's a complicated situation.

Can the minister clarify what kind of information is provided to Nunavut residents to inform them of what services are covered and which ones are not covered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for advocating on behalf of her constituents. I did get some information. I haven't had an opportunity to discuss with the member on the specific circumstances she is talking about. I'm just going through some final edits, but during the break or after today I would be more than happy to update the member.

Specifically with Non-Insured Health Benefits, we're always in discussions with Health Canada on what type of services can be covered under that program. We do have on our website Non-Insured Health Benefits information that if people have any questions on what information is

available there, they can continue to contact the patient relations office or there are people within the Department of Health that can assist people in that way.

In general any medical services that are being provided that could be covered by private health insurance, it is the physician or health personnel's obligation to enquire if that insurance is available first as NIHB, or Non-Insured Health Benefits, is a secondary payer. Hopefully any miscommunication errors won't occur any further down the road in that, but it is an obligation by health personnel to first enquire whether there is private health insurance that is available to be charged before NIHB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, we often hear of situations where a dental professional or a health professional recommends that a client receive a specific service, but then is denied. Can the minister clearly explain how the provision of dental services is administered by his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here in Iqaluit we do have private dental clinics that are available for people to go to. In the rest of the territory we rely upon contractors to provide dental services. With regard to the specific access to that, it is through

appointments with those contractors when they come up. With regard to billing, like I had mentioned, we do continuously work with NIHB on how the billing structure and what services can be billed for.

The medical needs of the patient is always paramount in the concern and when we do encounter, which I haven't been made aware of, any recent challenges other than the miscommunication issue that has just been brought to my attention fairly recently, I'm not aware of any issues with Nunavummiut not receiving the level of care that they're entitled to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I'll be calling the parents to see what's going on.

Mr. Speaker, in the fall of 2017 the Office of the Auditor General of Canada is scheduled to deliver a report to Parliament on First Nations and Inuit oral health. Can the minister confirm whether he or officials from his department will be providing input to the Auditor General on the challenges of providing adequate dental services to children in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of what stage the Auditor General is in their consultation

process of getting information from interested stakeholders that are involved in oral health care. I do know the Office of the Auditor General is always very diligent in gathering information. I can quite safely assure the member that the Office of the Auditor General will be in contact, if they have not already been in contact with health officials in Nunavut. It's something that I'll look into specifically. I'm not aware at what level that consultation process is in right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Question 628 – 4(3): Support for Hunters and Trappers Associations

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, hunters and trappers organizations play a very important role in Nunavut's wildlife management process. I recognize that the department provides a set amount of contribution funding to each of Nunavut's hunters and trappers organizations according to the schedules outlined under its support to harvesters program policy.

Can the minister tell us today when was the last time that his department reviewed the funding amounts that it provides to hunters and trappers organizations across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding that hunters and trappers organizations receive hasn't been increased in several years and I am not sure how long. I cannot state when this amount was set, but the funding hasn't changed as of today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, last week I tabled a copy of the correspondence that I received from the Ikajutit Hunters and Trappers Organization in Arctic Bay. In this letter the organization identifies its needs for office space where it can conduct meetings and other duties.

Can the minister tell us what steps the Ikajutit Hunters and Trappers Organization can take to secure office space in Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do recall the member tabling that document. I believe that Arctic Bay is part of the Arctic Fishery Alliance. The hunters and trappers organizations, I believe, get their funding from the Arctic Fishery Alliance. It can be used to purchase office buildings or any other equipment that they require. It can also be used to build an office if one should be required in your community or if you have to add

on to or expand the existing office building. It would be up to the Ikajutit Hunters and Trappers Organization. The Arctic Fishery Alliance provides funding for such activities or infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hunters and trappers organization in Arctic Bay has never had their own office. With the existing office that is rented, there are three rooms available. The hunters and trappers organization has their office in an open space and they have to deal with confidential information. They're having problems with their Arctic Bay offices.

Will the minister be able to assist the HTO in finding alternative solutions to their office space problem? They have nowhere to go and they have to deal with confidential information. They urgently need an office space so that they can have a permanent location. Can the minister commit to looking into this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hunters and trappers organization gets their funding from the secretariat. A part of that funding is available to rent or lease office space. At this time we don't have any money set aside for the hunters and trappers organizations to purchase or rent an office building. They can obtain funding from the Arctic Fishery

Alliance. That funding can be used for any project, but the Department of Environment at this time does not have any monies set aside for the purchase or construction of an office building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 629 – 4(3): Language Proficiency in the Public Service

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my line of questioning to the Minister of Finance, he didn't quite answer the last question I asked. I'm going to try a different minister, to the Minister responsible for Languages, and it's the same question.

Section 12.2(b) under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* requires every territorial institution to, and I quote, "identify and implement measures to increase the use of the Inuit Language as a working language of the institution." Can the minister clarify which department of the government has the primary responsibility of ensuring that this requirement is met? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we are responsible for the Inuit language and official languages. Each department within the government has to deal with the issue of languages, for example, the usage of the Inuit language within the government. Each

department has coordinators and each individual department is responsible for the usage of the official languages within the government system. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood correctly, each department is responsible for the usage of the official languages, but who oversees the usage of the Inuktitut language in the workforce? Which department oversees it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Languages, Hon. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, we work closely with the departments on the usage of the Inuit language. We promote the usage of the Inuit language and each department is responsible for their own usage. If I understood the question correctly as to who is the overseer, I can tell the member that it is the Department of Culture and Heritage that oversees the usage of the Inuit language and we work closely with the other government departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of my questioning at that time that I directed to the Minister of Finance regarded bilingual bonuses for government employees and their proficiency in that

language. This was reviewed by the Inuit Language Authority.

In a government workplace, are there any incentives other than the bilingual bonuses that have been placed within the government in order to promote the usage of the Inuit language? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the issue of the Inuit language within the government, we work with the Inuit Language Authority and other entities.

Mr. Speaker, the question was whether there are any other incentives provided to the employees other than the bilingual bonus. I can tell the member that each department is responsible for using and promoting the usage of the Inuit language. We give our full support and try to work closely together with the departments.

There's also Inuit language training provided to employees who would like to learn how to speak Inuktitut. We try to make sure that information is made available to all employees within the government system in regard to promoting the usage of the Inuit language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Moving on with the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to

Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 261 – 4(3): Adopted Resolutions from the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to table today copies of the resolutions that were adopted at the recent annual general meeting of the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to the chamber of commerce for its hard work on behalf of the communities, businesses, and residents of the Kivalliq, and I thank the Meadowbank mine for hosting this year's meeting.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review these resolutions with care. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions. The Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Item 15: Notices of Motions

Motion 042 – 4(3): Extension of Review Period for Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act – Notice

Mr. Tom Sammurtoq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 2, 2017, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, that the period of time for the Standing Committee on Legislation to report Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act*, back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 18: First Reading of Bills

Bill 36 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>Laughter

(interpretation ends) The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 42 – An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. The Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Motion 043 – 4(3): Adjournment for the Day

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minister of Finance has had a long day.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that the House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and we will proceed to Item 23 on the order paper.

(interpretation) Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder to members and to the public that the Order of Nunavut Investiture Ceremony takes place in the Chamber this evening at seven o'clock, and tomorrow the Standing Committee on Legislation meets at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 1:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

17. Motions

18. First Reading of Bills

19. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 36
- Bill 42

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

- Bill 32
- Bill 33
- Bill 34
- Bill 35

21. Report of the Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 1, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:27*

