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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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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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(Hudson Bay)

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(Tununiq)
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(Baker Lake)
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Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
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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)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, June 6, 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. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*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. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 319 – 4(3):
Training Travel Fund to Support
Article 23**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good

afternoon, my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut encourages public servants to continually develop their knowledge and skills through job or career related training.

My department delivers a variety of short courses in various communities throughout the year for public servants to access professional development closer to home. However, there are times when employees have to leave their communities to attend job-related training and we know how expensive travel costs are in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this year departments and public agencies will be able to apply to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to access a training travel fund for their Inuit employees who have to travel outside of their community to take a job or career related training.

Mr. Speaker, this program will assist departments and public bodies in implementing their detailed Inuit employment plans by supporting training and development plans for their Inuit employees. The Training Travel Fund will be using a combination of internal GN funds and funds set aside from the settlement agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of the Training Travel Fund is to increase both the number of Inuit employees who take job and career related training and the amount of training they access. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 320 – 4(3):
Income Assistance Reforms**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful that we have this opportunity once again. Good day to the people of Nunavut and Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand here today to update the members on the progress my department has made in implementing the reforms to income assistance in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) In *Sivumut Abluqta* our government committed to reviewing and reforming our approach to income assistance. This was done to ensure that those who truly need support receive that support. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to announce that the first phase of improvements will come into effect on July 1, 2017.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the old process did not provide an incentive for clients to work because their income assistance benefits were reduced by a dollar for every dollar of income they made over the earned income limit. As such, to encourage Nunavummiut to seek employment and earn more of their own income, the limit of the amount of money that clients can earn from employment while on income assistance has been raised.

(interpretation) Building upon this change, clients will also now be able to take the money they have earned from employment and save it in their bank

account. Previously Nunavummiut were forced to spend all of their savings in order to qualify for assistance. This made it difficult for clients to get off income assistance and become financially independent. This change will allow clients to save for emergencies.

(interpretation ends) Finally, as we are aware, some Nunavummiut are unable to work due to a long-term or short-term disability. We need to better support these individuals so that they can live full, productive lives. To accomplish this, we have increased the disability allowance to \$250 per month for people with disabilities lasting a year or longer and have introduced a short-term disability allowance of \$125 per month for people with disabilities lasting 6 to 12 months.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am proud of these reforms our government is making for our Income Assistance Program and I look forward to the continued progress that will be made on this important commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 321 – 4(3):
Mobile Addictions Treatment in
Cambridge Bay**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to share exciting developments regarding addictions treatment in the territory. On May 21, 2017 a group of seven men embarked on

a journey towards recovery from addictions. They are attending the Mobile Addictions Treatment Program delivered by the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre.

Mr. Speaker, for 28 days the group will be living at a healing centre set up on the land. Local elders participated in incorporating IQ, Inuit societal values, and Inuit traditions in the design of the program. Among other things the addictions program considers the role of relationships, family, and grief in the healing process.

The *Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy* partners secured funding from Health Canada's program for indigenous suicide prevention for two deliveries: one for men in the spring and one for women in the fall of 2017. The program was developed and piloted in 2012 by the Department of Health and the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre. Today this collaboration continues with support provided by staff from the Mental Health and Addictions Division, the municipality, and local organizations.

Mr. Speaker, this program is just one option that is part of our growing focus on in-territory treatment. In communities we have mental health and addiction staff working with clients to minimize the harms associated with their substance use through one-on-one counselling. We also provide funding for communities to run alcohol and drug programs that address both prevention and treatment. Efforts will continue to focus on building addiction treatment capacity within Nunavut.

I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Cambridge Bay

Wellness Centre in making this program a reality. Above all, however, it is the determination of these seven men to embark on a journey towards recovery that must be saluted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 322 – 4(3): First Educational Leadership Graduate Course in Inuktitut

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the residents of my community, Nunavummiut, and visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the first ever educational leadership course that will be offered in Inuktitut to Inuktitut-speaking educators on July 15 to 20. This Certificate of Educational Leadership in Nunavut course leads to principal certification and a graduate degree

Mr. Speaker, my department has been working with the University of Prince Edward Island on the development and delivery of a fully Inuktitut course on educational leadership. This course focuses on the development of collaborative relationships, positive communication, and empowerment of parents, elders, and community members who lead, support, and guide education in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, all Inuktitut-speaking educators in a Nunavut Teachers

Association position are eligible to apply for this graduate level course. Mr. Speaker, applications are still being accepted until June 18, so I encourage my fellow members to share this information and wonderful opportunity with your communities.

Mr. Speaker, this program is one of the ways by which my department supports, empowers, and encourages our Inuktitut-speaking educators and I am truly proud to share this news with you today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 323 – 4(3):
Community Infrastructure
Projects in Nunavut**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on community infrastructure projects in Nunavut. The Department of Community and Government Services has done a lot of work in the complex process of improving infrastructure in municipalities within Nunavut. I am pleased to report that we are seeing the results of this work.

I recently welcomed the Hon. Amarjeet Sohi to Nunavut on his first visit to our territory as the federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. We took part in a major announcement for

\$207 million in joint funding for 31 projects to upgrade solid waste management, water and wastewater systems throughout the territory. This funding helps municipalities meet their compliance requirements for environmental regulations and this is another step forward in the Government of Nunavut's plan to support communities.

During his meetings with the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, Minister Sohi was given a better appreciation of these major files. This meeting has helped us maintain our momentum in identifying Nunavut's infrastructure needs. Our next steps are to follow up with research, planning, project management, and the funding structures to ensure those needs are being met.

The Hon. Johnny Mike and the Hon. Keith Peterson joined us on a trip to Pangnirtung, where we visited the new water and wastewater facility, municipal wharf, fish plant, and the new power plant. Minister Sohi was able to see first-hand the major impacts and positive effects of government investments in infrastructure in the communities. He also saw what is lacking for landfills, Internet connectivity, recreation facilities, and transportation and this was very valuable in his understanding of the needs in the communities.

I am grateful for this opportunity to contribute to economic development, environmental protection, and the building of healthy communities for lasting benefits for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 324 – 4(3):
Piqqusilirivvik – Enhanced
Program with Pan-territorial
Traditional Knowledge**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again rise in the House today to inform my fellow members of the progress and great initiatives that are being taken by Piqqusilirivvik. I'll be speaking in English.

(interpretation ends) Last summer Piqqusilirivvik instructors and students travelled to Igloolik, where they participated in a walrus hunt. As part of the hunt they learned how to prepare *igunaq* (fermented walrus meat). Just a few weeks ago the instructors and students completed the cycle of learning by returning to Igloolik to retrieve the *igunaq* which they are now sharing with elders and community members in Clyde River but also elsewhere, including Iqaluit.

Students at Piqqusilirivvik visited elders at their homes in the community to foster relationships. During the visits, students helped the elders with household chores and also interviewed them, listened to stories, and practised hands-on skills such as sewing. The students incorporated the knowledge and experiences they gathered into independent research projects, which they presented back to the elders at the

conclusion of the elders' feast that followed.

Mr. Speaker, the Piqqusilirivvik program is not only unique; it is an inspirational experience with life-changing outcomes for the students who participate. Through this program and the experiences acquired, we are providing opportunities for Nunavummiut to learn and maintain our traditional knowledge and share it in a contemporary setting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 325 – 4(3):
Update on Use of Federal Funding
for Housing**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, *unnusakut*, (interpretation) fellow residents of Arviat, people of Whale Cove and Nunavut. Good afternoon wishes to you all.

Mr. Speaker, last fall I rose to inform the House of a new agreement that had been signed between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the federal government for investment of almost \$85 million over two years for housing in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to provide my colleagues with an update on the implementation of this funding.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, contracts have been awarded for construction of 90 brand-new public

housing units across the territory. Construction will begin this summer and completion of these units is expected by the fall of 2018. A further 95 units will also be contracted for the second year of the funding implementation. These new units will be critical to filling the significant housing gap faced by our territory.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, significant federal funding has also been dedicated to repair and renovate women's shelters in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. Work is well underway in the shelters and will continue over the summer.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, over \$1 million...

Speaker (interpretation): My apologies. (interpretation ends) Hon. minister, the time for Ministers' Statements is over.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: The minister is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Hon. Minister Kuksuk, please proceed.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues. I didn't realize that my time had run out.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, over \$1 million is also being used from federal and GN funding to make much-needed upgrades to elders centres in Iqaluit and Arviat. As our population

ages, the importance of having well-maintained elders facilities grows.

Finally this federal funding, along with GN funding, has allowed the NHC to complete a mould assessment project to address Nunavut's most affected public housing units. A total of 271 units were assessed across the territory. Where mould was found, these units will be remediated either by local housing staff or, where necessary, trained experts who will be contracted.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased with the progress that has been made to implement this federal funding to improve the housing situation of Nunavummiut. I look forward to updating my colleagues again as we continue to lobby and negotiate for further federal funding to address Nunavut's housing crisis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 578 – 4(3): Congratulations to Sanikiluaq's 2017 High School Graduates

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2017 high school graduates from Sanikiluaq. It is always a very proud moment for me to be able to

acknowledge the hard work and success of these young men and women.

Mr. Speaker, a High School Diploma is a stepping stone to future learning. In achieving this goal, our young graduates can look forward to greater opportunities in life.

This year saw nine students graduate from Sanikiluaq's high school, which is a good sign for our future. These young graduates are role models for other youth in the community. They lead by example, by showing what self-discipline and dedication to their studies can achieve.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate:

- Delilah Crow Mickiyuk,
- Dora Takatak,
- Erine Oqaituk,
- Bonnie Cookie,
- Noah Cody Appaqaq,
- Norman Novalinga,
- Angele Arragutainaq,
- Lucy Mangi Novalinga, and
- Johnassie Daryle Iqaluq.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to recognize the role of parents, guardians, teachers, and the entire community in encouraging our youth to work towards achieving their education and their future opportunities.

I congratulate Sanikiluaq's 2017 graduates and extend my congratulations to everyone who helped our graduates reach their success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 579 – 4(3):
Congratulations on Celebrating 15
Years of the Francophone School**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to rise today to share in the celebrations here in Iqaluit for the French school that was celebrating its anniversary at the end of April.

École des Trois-Soleils was celebrating 15 years of operations. They invited me to attend and extended their hospitality. I had great fun at the celebrations and I informed them to continue working hard to ensure the future operations of their school.

French people share in our cultural differences by protecting their language and they continue to support Inuit in protecting our language. I am grateful for that since they are a very good partner in facing outside cultural influences. I wish them continued success in their future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 580 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Pond Inlet's
2017 High School Graduates**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my

fellow residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut.

I, too, would like to congratulate the graduates in Pond Inlet. The residents of my community are celebrating the grade 12 graduates and that will be their day right up to this evening.

It is always a happy experience when we see our students graduate. I would also like to thank their parents and grandparents who urged those young people to go to school. Sometimes it's very hard to get up and go to school. That was the case when I was a student anyway. I thank those people who urge students to go to school.

I congratulate the following:

- Robie Aglak
- Cara Killiktee
- Savanna Killiktee
- Gavin Kunuk
- Crystal Nutarak
- Jasmin Omik
- Michel Oolateeta
- Adam Ootoovak
- Jonathan Pitseolak
- Lindsey Qanguq

I urge you, if at all possible, to pursue a higher education. Graduating from grade 12 is not the end of learning. I urge you to further your education. It's obvious that learning is a lifelong experience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 581 – 4(3): Responsible Internet Use

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remind Nunavummiut to use social media responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, there are many opportunities for individuals and communities to benefit from the accessibility of social media. Social media sites allow us to connect with loved ones over long distances, share concerns within the community, and advertise local initiatives and events.

However, as our society becomes more technologically advanced, we also become more vulnerable in a number of ways. With the advent of cyberbullying and live streaming, it is now more important than ever for us to practise safe and responsible Internet use.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind our viewers today of the power that damaging or disturbing content may have on other individuals in their communities. Think hard about the consequences before you post comments, photos, or videos that may affect others in a harmful way.

If you notice harmful content on a particular site, it is your responsibility to report that content to the site administrators, if possible.

I would also like to remind our viewers that any statements that we may post on the Internet will not be private and may represent how the world perceives us indefinitely.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the government and law enforcement agencies have limited control over what content may or may not be shared by an individual on the Internet. However, I would like to encourage the government and Royal Canadian Mounted Police to increase their efforts to educate the public on how to use the Internet and social media in a safe and responsible manner.

Mr. Speaker, I ask to conclude my member's statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues.

I also encourage all Nunavummiut to remain vigilant in keeping our communities safe in both the physical and virtual worlds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Member's Statement 582 – 4(3):
Congratulations to Pangnirtung's
2017 High School Graduates**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to welcome visitors to the House.

I, too, wish to talk about education and the upcoming graduation ceremony in Pangnirtung. As well, this will highlight Pangnirtung's longstanding education focus so that others may become aware of it.

This document I have relates to the festivities in Pangnirtung for the (interpretation ends) Pangnirtung class of 1932. (interpretation) This document is one I wish to table when it is the appropriate time to table it, as I want people to know this fact.

Today I have been invited to attend to the ceremony which states, "You have been invited to attend the 2017 graduation ceremony on Friday, June 16, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the Attagoyuk gymnasium. Dress your best and come celebrate with us!" Yes, I accept this invitation sent to my attention.

I wish to also name the graduates. These young people I will name have graduated from grade 12, whom are all able to hunt. They do hunting and fishing, and indeed they are proficient in sewing skin. They have stitched together pants, parkas, and mitts.

These graduates whom I will now name are:

- Billy Akulukjuk
- Mary Angmarlik
- Jonas Aningmiuq
- Joshua Angnakak
- Lana David
- Leanne Evic
- Leslie Karpik
- Annie Kuniliusie
- Elisapee Maniapik
- Sean Michael
- Robert Mike

- Jeremiah Nakashuk
- Christa Nowdlak
- Martha Nowdlak
- Jeannie Qaqasiq
- Robin Qaqasiq
- Seemee Qaqasiq

Yes, this list comprises the graduating students from Pangnirtung who will celebrate their graduation ceremony in the community. They have informed me that they had their invitation to attend the ceremony accepted by the Minister of Education, Minister Quassa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 732 – 4(3): Tourism

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Return to oral question asked by Pat Angnakak, MLA for Niaqunngu, on May 31, 2017 on the subject of tourism.

Question:

Mr. Speaker, on May 31 MLA Iqaluit-Niaqunngu Pat Angnakak asked, "Earlier this year the Legislative Assembly approved a budget increase for her department's Tourism and Cultural Industries Division, an increase

which included funding for 10 positions. As of today, what is the status of filling these 10 positions?"

Answer:

Mr. Speaker, the current status of the 10 new positions is as follows:

- Three visitor centre coordinator positions are filled in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Pangnirtung.
- The Cambridge Bay Visitor Centre coordinator position will go to competition once the manager of the visitor experience position, to which it reports, is filled.
- Two positions, the marketing manager and divisional assistant, were posted and the job ads for both closed on June 2. These positions should be filled by this summer.
- Four positions were sent to staffing earlier this year: the market and research analyst, the manager, visitor experience, as well as regional tourism coordinators in Kugluktuk and Iqaluit. These will be posted as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't get to recognize people

from Arviat too often here. Arviat is far away and it is always nice to see Arviarmiut faces here.

I would like to recognize a few people. One behind me is Tommy Owljoot. Over on the other side is Norma-Jean Kablutsiak. There is one more over there, Sheila Napayok. She is not from Arviat, but once you grow up and live in Arviat, even when you leave, you're considered Arviarmiut forever, so I would like to acknowledge her too. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that very much.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a person from Kugluktuk. In fact we go back a long way. He used to be my Cub leader. That's going back quite a ways.

>>Laughter

He is no stranger to this House. He has been here before and he sat here representing Kugluktuk and did a very good job. I want to recognize Donald Haviyok from Kugluktuk.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Baker Lake.

Today I would like to recognize someone from Baker Lake I am very pleased to see. He owns a business and he has hired many people. I would like to welcome Al Lahure to the House. I hope that he feels welcomed and that he is welcomed as well. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to first acknowledge a resident from Iqaluit-Manirajak, Nikki Eegeesiak. Welcome.

Also, several of my cousins are here in the gallery, but I'll mention in particular Donna Adams. Welcome.

I wish to recognize numerous people who are visiting this House as board members of the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. (interpretation) They are here to approve their (interpretation ends) annual audited financial statements (interpretation) along with the annual report outlining their accomplishments and news. I will start with the chairperson, Marg Epp. Welcome. Elijah Evaluarjuk from Igloolik is the vice-chairperson and he is also the chairperson of the (interpretation ends) Qulliq Energy Corporation.

(interpretation) Donald Havioyak is well known. He is also the chair of the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Development Corporation. (interpretation) Also Greg Cayen, Al Lahure is here, and Tommy Owljoot. Tracy Wallace is a very capable person. She is the secretary treasurer and has become a board member of the Atuqtuarvik Corporation.

I also wish to recognize their staff. From Iqaluit-Manirajak is Peter Ma, who is my neighbour. In the gallery is Angela Barkhouse, the senior advisor of business services. Dushyenth Ganesan used to live in Iqaluit-Manirajak, but I believe he has moved. He is also the accounts manager. Also, Damien Lachance, welcome to the gallery. He's their compliance officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I rarely ever get to recognize people from Rankin Inlet in the gallery. I would like to recognize Sandra Oolooyuk, Sally Kusugak, Tracy Wallace, (interpretation ends) and Donna Adams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. 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. I again thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I also share in the joy of seeing our fellow residents of the Kivalliq here in the gallery. When they visit, it is nice to recognize people you know. I, too, will acknowledge several people who are in the gallery today.

Mr. Speaker, I will start first with the visitors sitting across from me. Among them is a long-time fellow resident of Arviat, so I wish to welcome Norma-Jean Kablutsiak.

Also, although some of the following people I will recognize have moved away from Arviat, we still view them as Arviarmiut. Sheila Napayok is here. Welcome, along with Donna Adams and Sally Kusugak. Welcome to all of you.

As well amongst the visitors sitting on this side, I would like to acknowledge and welcome Mr. Tommy Owljoot from Arviat. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first of all like to acknowledge the chair of the coalition of DEAs. Although she was already acknowledged, I would like to

welcome Donna Adams and one of the DEA coalition staff members, Nikki Eegeesiak. Although they were acknowledged, I would like to recognize them. I congratulate them for working very well on education.

I would also like to acknowledge a person from my community, Elijah Evaluarjuk. Welcome, as well as to the rest of the visitors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize an individual from Cambridge Bay. It is not very often I get to do that. I think people from Cambridge Bay have a longer trip than people from Arviat. We have to go to another territory to come here.

I would like to welcome Marg Epp from Cambridge Bay. She's doing a great job as the chair of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. I apologize. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I raised my hand first.

>>Laughter

People of Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Nunavut, please have a good day.

I would also like to recognize two people whom Minister Quassa already mentioned.

(interpretation ends) First of all I would like to recognize the Chair of the Coalition of DEAs, Donna Adams, and the Executive Director, Nikki Eegeesiak.

I would also like to recognize from, I believe, Arctic College, Sheila Napayok, Sharon Qiyuk, also a good friend of mine who is a long-time northerner, Al Lahure, welcome, and my niece, Tracy Wallace. Welcome to the House.

(interpretation) Also, Sandy Oolooyuk (interpretation ends) from Arctic College and Sally Kusugak. Welcome to the House. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This person was also already recognized as a former constituent of Minister Ell-Kanayuk, and I just wanted to make sure that I know that I'm aware of where he currently lives, in the Tasiluk riding. I would like to again

welcome Mr. Dushyenth Ganesan to the gallery. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list.

I, too, wish to acknowledge a person and the father of the person I would like to recognize was the late Mark Evaluarjuk, who was a long-time MLA. I am very grateful to see his son now visiting our Chamber. I wish to recognize Elijah Evaluarjuk. He is from my constituency. Please feel welcome.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) I also would like to recognize Aon Hewitt from Calgary, Mr. Steve Windsor, and Bob, if I don't pronounce it correctly, forgive me, Mrazek. (interpretation) I want to recognize them. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Going back to the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Okay.
(interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Some Hon. Members: Oh!

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 763 – 4(3): Out-of-territory Support Services

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Yes, I know, ladies first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody.

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

Mr. Speaker, the minister may recall that in October of 2016 he indicated that he would provide further detail on contracts negotiated with organizations in other jurisdictions which provide assistance and support services for Nunavut medical clients. As I never did receive the detailed information that the minister said he was going to provide, I would like to take this opportunity now to follow up on this issue.

My first question is: can the minister provide an update on the current status of contracts with such entities as the Ottawa Health Services Network, also known as OHSNI, which provide services to Nunavut medical clients when they travel outside of the territory? 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. First I must apologize to the member. I must have obviously neglected to follow up with the member and I'll make a note of that. Thank you.

With the Ottawa Health Services Network Incorporated, the end date of that current contract is April 1, 2021. There are five years of extension available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm still mulling that number over in my head. That's a long contract.

Mr. Speaker, medical clients from the Qikiqtaaluk region generally travel to Ottawa to receive health services that cannot be provided in Nunavut. OHSNI provides a number of services to assist with this process. Can the minister identify which entities are responsible for providing similar services for Nunavummiut who travel to Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Basically in a nutshell, we don't have any other jurisdictions that provide or have the services provided such as OHSNI provides for (interpretation) residents of Baffin (interpretation ends) that go down to Ottawa.

It's kind of piece-worked together. Basically the boarding homes look after a lot of the services on medical, not just boarding but transportation to and from their appointments, and interpretation services available through those facilities. An all-encompassing contract does not exist for the other two regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, in October of 2016 he stated that he would provide details regarding all the contracts with out-of-territory entities which provide services to medical clients who travel to other jurisdictions for health care. Will the minister commit to providing that information to Members of the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'll go through the contract information that I have available and will provide it to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 764 – 4(3): Grise Fiord Municipal Complex

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Last month the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Commissioner of Nunavut visited Grise Fiord. The mayor and the municipal council hosted a community feast for our visitors. This successful event was held at the municipal complex, which includes the community's gymnasium.

The community is grateful for the new municipal complex, which was opened in 2014. However, concerns have been

raised that the facility lacks an adequate sprinkler system. Can the minister confirm what his department is doing to address the concern? 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. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. With respect to the building that my colleague is referring to, the sprinkler system was not included when the building was designed and built. It is being looked at right now to see if the sprinkler system can be installed in the building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for saying that some thought has been put into this matter.

Can the minister indicate how often the facility is inspected by officials to ensure that it meets with all fire code requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the member to repeat the question. I believe he's asking about inspections by fire officials. Can he please repeat the

question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook, please rephrase your question.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): As I stated, can the minister indicate how often the facility is inspected by officials to ensure that it meets with all fire code requirements? 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. Facilities such as daycares, schools, hamlet offices, and buildings that are not privately owned like (interpretation ends) commercial buildings (interpretation) are supposed to be inspected annually. I can't tell the member right now if they have actually been inspected every year, but they are supposed to be inspected every year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerns have also been raised that the facility's heating system is not working properly in all areas of the building. Can the minister confirm what his department is doing to address the concern? 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. My apologies. Can the member specify which building he is referring to that has a heating system not working properly? Is it the municipal complex that he referred to, the community hall? Can he please indicate which building he is referring to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook, please clarify.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You already understood my question. I am referring to the hamlet complex which also has a gym. The heating system in that building is not working properly. I hope you understand that now. 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 hamlet buildings are handled by the hamlets and their maintenance workers deal with that, but I can tell the member that I will look into this matter. However, it is a hamlet building, so the hamlet is responsible for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Question 765 – 4(3): Contracting and Procurement

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for

the Minister of Community and Government Services.

I want to revisit the issue of contracting and procurement. As the minister is aware, concerns have been raised about his department's awarding of certain as-and-when maintenance contracts to companies located outside of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, contracts that are issued by the Nunavut Housing Corporation can include minimum Inuit labour requirements.

Can the minister indicate whether or not the as-and-when maintenance contracts that are issued by his department include a requirement for southern companies to hire a minimum number of local workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can inform the members that the as-and-when contracts do have minimum Inuit requirement conditions. Depending on the contract, the minimum percentage of Inuit employment can be different. In short, yes, there is a minimum requirement for all as-and-when contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Contracts that are issued by the Nunavut Housing Corporation can include requirements for companies to fund training for Inuit workers. In fact

the Nunavut Housing Corporation provides money to the contractors to fund training.

Can the minister indicate whether or not as-and-when maintenance contracts that are issued by his department include a requirement for companies to provide training to local apprentices and/or students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of any as-and-when contracts where it's a requirement that they have to train anyone. As the contract states, it's as and when. You're not sure when you're going to get work, how much work you're going to get, and when it's going to be. I know of some contractors that do have as-and-when that do have apprentices. I would think that in part of the evaluating process, all of that would be looked at, but I don't know for sure if there are any requirements that they have to have a training component. In fact I would say that there probably isn't, but I can get back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the members of Rankin Inlet North and Iqaluit-Niaqunngu have both pointed out in recent days, the government's new NNI Policy now provides for additional bid adjustments

for Inuit firms with higher Inuit ownership levels.

However, neither the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation nor the Minister of CGS appear to have been provided with an updated list of Inuit firms by NTI which includes their new ratings.

My question to the minister is this: how can the government calculate bid adjustments when awarding contracts if it has not been provided with this new information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think a lot or most of the as-and-when contracts that were just issued were all issued on the old NNI Policy. That list of the old NNI Policy would have been current until the end of March 31, 2017. The new NNI Policy was effective April 1, 2017. Any contracts that were going to be in the fiscal year from April 1, 2017 until March 31, 2018, the tenders would have been out and given out when the old NNI Policy was still enacted. Those bids would be under the old NNI Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 766 – 4(3): Supports for Parenting

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my

colleagues, people of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, various events in the recent history of the people of Nunavut have resulted in major disconnects between generations and the loss of traditional family roles often leads to a lack of understanding of family dynamics.

I would like to ask the minister if he can provide an update on what kinds of supports and services his department makes available to parents, especially young parents, who are struggling with raising their children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. Yes, this issue of parental responsibility offered through the Department of Family Services is what we have focused on through the *Inunnguiniq* stream, as it is called. It is geared towards teaching proper child rearing practices, including the roles of the father and mother in raising their children. This includes various stages of child growth.

The Department of Family Services was engaged in this course due to the reason of teaching cultural steps through the *Inunnguiniq* program. Due to this fact, our department provided training on the *Inunnguiniq* program last year to ensure younger parents can raise their children

properly. This program training was successful and it taught child rearing and parental responsibilities to the facilitators who will provide the training for the parents.

That is what we have attempted as the Department of Family Services to date. As well, this is considered important due to the Inuit who wish to incorporate traditional rearing practices as an independent family. Yes, I can indicate today that that's the work we have done in the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a serious issue that is faced by many parents is how to discipline their children. Can the minister clarify whether or not his department creates, publishes, or makes available any resources or programs to help young parents address discipline issues with their children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Hon. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. If I understood his question correctly, yes, the Department of Family Services has tried to offer two avenues due to this issue.

It is up to local organizations that wish to be involved that can apply for funding under this subject related to child rearing in a culturally appropriate manner. The

second area involves the researchers who are studying health issues related to child rearing.

Due to this reason, this *Inunnguiniq* training will result in capable advisors within Nunavut. This is how we try to ensure training in child rearing is provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a sad fact that a number of youth in Nunavut suffer from behavioural challenges. This is seen in our schools, in the rates of vandalism and arson, and in those unfortunate incidents where situations escalate out of control.

Will the minister commit to reviewing the statistics, the reports, and the testimony of frontline youth workers and bring forward supports and resources to help parents with children who have behavioural challenges? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my previous comment, work has progressed but is still required for 2017-18 on completing this work due to the reason of including *Inunnguiniq*. This is under the mandate of the Department of Family Services.

Regarding the member's suggestion, I can agree to try to provide an analysis of the issue that he raised related to social

interactive programs such as child rearing and so on. With the loss of the traditional teaching platforms, we notice, for example, the case of the Cape Dorset arson committed at the school.

The Department of Family Services is involved with this program, along with other departments to try to resolve this issue, at least that I am aware of. To elaborate, what we are dealing with here as a department is more on child rearing practices under Inuit cultural stages. Due to these reasons, we must ensure Inuit culture is believed, that the knowledge is founded on proven principles of raising a properly socialized Inuk.

As per my earlier comments, the facilitators will receive further training during this fiscal year. It seems obvious to me that we will find more information as we push to implement these principles or to ensure that recommendations submitted regarding concerns are the reason for cultural training of becoming an Inuk and proper child rearing techniques for fathers or mothers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 767 – 4(3): Effects of Mould on Tenants' Health

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was out of the territory recently for several days. This trip served as a lesson on issues we should be aware of in our homes as what we experience teaches us new methods.

Mr. Speaker, one of the places we stayed at unknowingly resulted in my physical

condition changing in an experience I have never had before, so I learnt from that experience. I unknowingly experienced headaches and loss of breath, which I have never felt previously. It was only when we left the room that I found out that it was due to being exposed to mould.

I have heard about people getting headaches. I researched this subject where I found if you breathe in mould, it can cause headaches and it can enter your lungs. Apparently mould thrives on flour and sugar. If it enters your body, it can grow inside. If you stop eating food containing flour and sugar, the mould starts dying off.

The Member for Gjoa Haven asked the minister questions on how the remediation of mould would be undertaken by the housing corporation. I would further encourage the minister and ask him this question. Have the tenants currently residing in mouldy units been advised of the potential health impacts of mould and how it can result in toxicity or sickness? That is my first question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We are aware of the importance of the issue the member raises. Our partners who own these public housing units are the local housing organizations. Our corporation and the LHOs have maintained contact on this health concern.

With respect to tenant information about the mould, it included other dangers that grow in damp conditions such as mildew, which requires dampness to grow, resulting in mouldy conditions. This is what the LHOs and our corporation is working together on. The workers received training on mould remediation and proper cleanup techniques.

The units that harbour mould is the reason we have provided the information publicly on a calendar on possible health concerns and explored other ways to have tenants be aware of mould. That is what we are attempting to undertake. This is to ensure tenants are aware of this issue, if they occupy public housing units that may be susceptible to mould and possible effects on the health of our tenants. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were over 200 units identified for mould remediation within Nunavut based on the previous statements about these housing units. I imagine some units are still occupied. I wonder if the minister can indicate whether past tenants or current tenants of mould-infested units have been properly informed about the dangers.

In fact health professionals often misdiagnose mould illnesses. I wonder if this minister will publicly inform the tenants through their corporate offices on the possible health effects on the human body. Will your corporation commit to transmitting this critical information to the tenants who live in

mouldy housing 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. Indeed the member is correct in his statement.

With respect to the units that the LHOs manage, after there was a territorial study on the mould contamination and the number of units affected, 271 housing units were initially identified. Yes, for all of Nunavut, there are 271 housing units that were inspected for possible mould contamination. The inspection allocated a level which was comprised of (interpretation ends) level 1, 2, or 3 (interpretation) infestations within the unit. This indicated the level of mould found.

With respect to the actual question, yes, the tenants will be informed and whether they require relocation while the cleanup crew is remediating their housing unit. Depending on the level of the mould, the cleanup would be undertaken either by the local housing maintainer group or through a contractor. That is how it will be done. If our staff can't clean up the mould, we will make sure to contract experts to do the cleaning. We will be informing our housing tenants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 768 – 4(3): Firearms Safety Initiatives

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

During yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I tabled a copy of my recent exchange of correspondence concerning firearms safety and training programs in Nunavut.

The correspondence that I received from the government indicated that the Department of Health has, and I quote, "collaborated with the RCMP to provide funding and administrative support to strengthen and expand the coverage of the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC)."

Can the minister indicate how much funding the department is providing during the current 2017-18 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the firearms safety campaign, our Quality of Life division has contributed \$180,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The correspondence that I received from the government indicated that the Department of Health has, and I quote, "procured over 11,000 trigger and cable locks to continue the door-to-door

campaign, in attempts to visit every door in Nunavut by 2018.” Can the minister update the House today on which communities have been visited as part of this campaign? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent of this program is to knock on every door in Nunavut by the end of 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The correspondence that I received from the government indicated that the Department of Health will be, and I quote, “Translating the CFSC course books into Inuktitut in partnership with [the Inuit Language Authority].” Can the minister update the House today on the status of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was just last year that the Quality of Life Secretariat was created and funded by this government. A lot of initiatives are ongoing. I don’t know the absolute current status of that program, but I do know that there have been communications around the topic and I’ll have to get back to the member on the exact current status. Things are moving very quickly. There are a lot of initiatives going and on day by day things are developing and changing, so I just don’t have the current status on that

particular topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 769 – 4(3): Status of Coral Harbour School Playground

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. I’m sure he will recall the dialogue we had between us in regard to the lack of playgrounds in Coral Harbour.

I’m not sure how many years have passed, but a few years ago Coral Harbour received funding for a new playground. However, to date nothing has been done and the school children have nowhere to play. There’s absolutely no playground that has been put up yet. That’s still the case today. The DEA has made repeated requests on when the playground will be constructed.

Can the minister provide an update on what is being done to ensure that there is a functioning and safe playground for Coral Harbour’s schoolchildren? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for bringing up that subject again. We know the status of that project. The playground material was brought up to Coral Harbour in 2014. They were bought by the Sakku School

in 2014 and in 2016 they did try to start setting up the playground.

We contracted GC North Construction in July 2016 and the crew went to Coral Harbour to set up the playground. At that time there was no foundation material, so we had to order it. It did arrive to Coral Harbour, but when they started taking out the playground material, we found that there was theft involved. There were no nails and other required material to build the playground, so the construction couldn't begin in 2016.

We had to reorder the missing materials. The missing materials did come in during the fall, but the construction couldn't be completed in 2016 due to the weather. To date all the required material is in the community and we expect that they will start constructing the playground on August 12, 2017 in Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clearly indicating that they will be working on the playground. It is obvious that our constituents hear such responses, so they have heard what the issues were. Since the minister indicated that the work will be undertaken, I wonder how it will be done. He also mentioned that the materials are now complete and that the replacements for the missing items that were stolen have arrived.

Is August the actual date for the construction to commence and has this information been relayed to the DEA in Coral Harbour? Is the date of

construction firm and can assistance be provided to acquire the playground equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Education, Hon. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, as I stated previously, August 12 is the scheduled construction start date and I imagine that the project will be completed shortly after. We have informed GC North Construction of the requirement.

To elaborate, other communities will also get playground equipment. For example, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Hall Beach, Kugluktuk, Naujaat, and Pond Inlet will have their playground construction projects commencing this fall. There is always a need for playgrounds within our schools, so that is why I wanted to elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 770 – 4(3): Public Housing Construction

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to (interpretation) the residents of Gjoa Haven (interpretation ends) and all the people of Nunavut.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's tender package for the construction of 20 new public housing units in Gjoa Haven closed on March 10 of 2017. The community is very much looking forward to these desperately needed new units.

Mr. Speaker, for the record, can the minister confirm which company has been awarded the contract for the construction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question. In Gjoa Haven the public housing construction contract was awarded to Sanaqatiit Construction. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to note that the tender documents indicate that the prescribed minimum level of Inuit labour as a percentage of total labour by dollar value for this construction will be 25 percent. Has Gjoa Haven's local housing association been made aware of this requirement so that the local housing authority can inform local Inuit workers of this employment opportunity? 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 didn't quite hear the member's question. I would like to ask him to repeat the question for me. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak, please repeat your question.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try again. I was pleased to note that the tender documents indicate that the prescribed minimum level of Inuit labour as a percentage of total labour by dollar value for this construction will be 25 percent. Has Gjoa Haven's local housing association been made aware of this requirement so that the local housing authority can inform local Inuit workers of this employment opportunity? 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 also thank the member for repeating his question. Mr. Speaker, when we're going to be constructing units in the community, we work with the local housing authorities. The (interpretation ends) district office (interpretation) or the local housing authorities work with the contractors to make sure that they hire local labourers or registered apprentices. The contractor is made aware of the requirements for construction in the communities. I believe that this is done and the LHA in

your community is kept well informed about this issue. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's tender package for the construction of 20 new public housing units in Gjoa Haven also indicates that "an amount of up to \$50,000 will be made available to the contractor to fund training of Inuit workers" in trades and other disciplines. That is good news.

Has Gjoa Haven's local housing association been made aware of this requirement so that the LHA can inform local Inuit workers of this training opportunity? 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. As per my earlier comments, I spoke to this need for good communication lines between the corporation and the local organizations whenever any work will be commenced on our units.

I'm referring to the NHC contracts. Whenever a contract will be let, we need to ensure that there is (interpretation ends) local employment (interpretation) and what I referenced before, which are training opportunities. This would include on-the-job training, if the worker wishes to become an (interpretation ends) apprentice (interpretation) or if they are already an apprentice.

The funding referred to by the member would be to assist communities. This \$50,000 is for training and to ensure that the contractor can train local workers. This is well known by the LHOs, as we have provided information announcing this previously on how to apply for the funding and the purpose as well. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 771 – 4(3): Status of Office of Patient Relations

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

Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents was asking me questions and my constituents have asked me questions about problems or concerns they have with respect to their health care. I am certain that every one of my colleagues, including myself, know that there is an office, the Office of Patient Relations, to which we can direct our constituents for information and assistance. Even though this office has been in existence for some time, constituents often seem unaware that it exists and still come to ask me for help.

Can the minister provide an update on what efforts are being made to ensure that all Nunavut residents are aware of the role of the Office of Patient Relations and how to contact the office if they need help? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member bringing this issue forward. It gives me an opportunity to talk about the good work that the Office of Patient Relations has done and continues to do.

The member is right. The Office of Patient Relations was announced in July of 2013 and has been steadily growing. The ability to deal with issues has streamlined a lot of the processes to get information to Nunavummiut. I do realize we could do a better job promoting the Office of Patient Relations and it is something I have had discussions with the department on looking at like an advertising campaign or something like that.

There are several ways to file a concern. I always recommend people, if they feel comfortable, to talk directly to the health care provider if they have an issue or a concern, or that person's manager or supervisor. If they're not comfortable with that, obviously you can contact the Office of Patient Relations any time. Like I said, there are a number of different ways:

- In-person;
- There's a toll-free number, 855-438-3003;
- There is email, patientrelations@gov.nu.ca;
- By completing the standardized form on the Nunavut Health website; or
- By letter by mailing the territorial manager of patient relations at the Office of Patient Relations, Department of Health, Box 1000,

Station 1000, Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Office of Patient Relations can play a very important role in resolving misunderstandings, correcting miscommunications, and assisting Nunavut residents in getting the health care they or their family members need but which, for one reason or another, they haven't been able to receive.

Can the minister clearly describe how the various different activities of the Office of Patient Relations are recorded, monitored, and evaluated for success? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All issues that are brought forward to Patient Relations aren't necessarily negative. A lot of times it's there to just help clarify, like the member said, a question or a process. They're very good advocates to make sure that Nunavummiut are receiving the health care that they expect. They also work with health care professionals to mediate any challenges that do arise.

Issues are tracked and followed up with the patient or with the health care professional as needs are determined. Numbers are tracked by community. In 2015 there were approximately 238

concerns brought to the Office of Patient Relations and that number has gone down to, I believe, 214 last fiscal year. The number is quite close, but it just goes to show that people are aware of the office and do appreciate the work that's being done out of there.

I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, in many jurisdictions, ombudsman offices or advocacy offices often have a mandate to support and protect the rights of specific groups, such as youth or the elderly or housing tenants, for example.

Can the minister confirm whether or not the Office of Patient Relations has a mandate to support and protect the rights of medical patients and other clients of Nunavut's health care system? 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. I really do appreciate the member helping bring focus to this office and the good work that they do.

When we're talking about advocating for patients, just some of the roles that are under the Office of Patient Relations mandate is, like I said, to help those with questions or suggestions related to concerns about health care and services provided; to assist patients and families to navigate the health care system itself.

It is also there to provide advice on conflict resolutions for patients, their families, and hospital or health centre personnel. Also like I stated earlier, it investigates patient concerns and does provide follow-up with the patient. It also makes recommendations to improve the patient care following an investigation or concern so that we can continuously improve the services that we're providing to Nunavummiut.

I think, when you're talking about a third party or an arm's-length organization overseeing, the Office of Patient Relations does have a function there where we have a concern resolution committee. If people aren't satisfied with the response that's provided through Patient Relations, it can get escalated to the regional executive director or even up to the assistant deputy minister.

Like I said, the concern resolution committee, any escalated or very complicated cases can be examined by this committee, who looks at it from a neutral perspective. As of yet, just to show the good work that the office has been doing, that committee has, to my knowledge, never had to meet.

In answering the member's question, there is that oversight that's available to the Office of Patient Relations and to Nunavut health care patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Motion 050 – 4(3): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Hudson Bay, that the time for question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor to extend the question period. 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 question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Question 772 – 4(3): Nutrition North Canada Program

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for extending question period so that some others can get questions in.

My questions are for the Premier and they concern his minister's statement from yesterday regarding the federal Nutrition North Canada Program.

In his statement yesterday the Premier indicated that he has met and been exchanging correspondence with the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs on this issue. He also stated that the Government of Nunavut has made some specific recommendations to the federal government concerning how to fix or replace the Nutrition North program.

Mr. Speaker, the Nutrition North program is important to all Nunavut communities. I ask: will the Premier commit to tabling his recent exchange of correspondence in the House before the end of the current spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member of Sanikiluaq. First of all I want to thank his community members, the mayor and council. We visited there with Ministers Hickes, Peterson, and Mike and we were welcomed from the people of Sanikiluaq. We got treated like royalty, so we really appreciate that. Again, we met with the hamlet council, the respective ministers to their respective offices and the people who work for their respective departments. We really appreciate that and I thank you for that invitation.

Mr. Speaker, the Nutrition North program is really critical to Nunavummiut. As you know, around 60 percent of our residents of Nunavut have food insecurity. It was also stated in the Conference Board of Canada. It's something that's really critical to Nunavummiut. That program was developed for northern communities such as all the territory of Nunavut. I believe there's only one community in the Yukon that has access to this program.

Mr. Speaker, I have no problem tabling the letter to the House here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the commitment from the Premier.

Can the Premier describe today some of the specific recommendations that the Government of Nunavut has made to the federal government concerning how to fix or replace the federal Nutrition Canada program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did make a handful of recommendations to the Minister of INAC and of course it's six pages long. If I read that, we will use up all the time for question period.

>> *Laughter*

For example, there are reports out there from the Auditor General's office that indicate that the system is not working. We used some of those recommendations that the Auditor General made public, including our own.

We do have to ensure that we find ways to assist the INAC department in making sure that public money is used for public good and it's transparent. At this point we don't know the amount of the savings passed on to the consumer. If you don't know the landed cost, the freight costs, and the profit margin, you don't know if the program is actually assisting Nunavummiut.

That is one of the recommendations that I have made to ensure that the savings are passed on to the people in need as this program has been developed to assist Nunavummiut. At this point we just don't know if it's doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While reviewing the *Hansard* of the Northwest Territories, I noticed that on May 31 of 2017 the Premier of the Northwest Territories stated in his Legislative Assembly that the Government of the Northwest Territories has, and I quote, "offered to take over the program if the accompanying money would be transferred with it."

Has our Premier made the same request to Ottawa about taking over the delivery of this program in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't made that specific request, but you know, Mr. Speaker, there are many programs that we run and we're in a different situation than the Northwest Territories. At this point no, we haven't considered that and I don't think I will be considering that going into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 773 – 4(3): Number of Children Allowed by Policy Assigned to Foster Parents

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, people in Nunavut are very grateful that there are many foster parents in the different communities. Unfortunately far too many of our youth need a safe place to go when family situations deteriorate. We are thankful that foster parents can provide a temporary safe haven. However, at times it seems as though some foster homes take in more foster children than they would reasonably be expected to. Maybe it's because they're the only ones available.

Can the minister clearly indicate what policies are in place with respect to the number of children that can be accommodated within a foster family and how his department ensures that the policies are followed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. I can't give you a number right now. I would have to check into it first to see how many wards are allowed to be in each foster home. I will have to get the information and get back to the member. Unfortunately I can't answer that right now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Raising children is a challenge. It's not just raising kids. Parents must ensure that the home is safe and comfortable, that there is enough food to eat, and that the children are treated respectfully and supportively. These challenges are also faced by foster parents.

Can the minister clearly describe what measures are in place to provide oversight of foster home conditions to ensure that foster children receive the appropriate levels of care and support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Family Services is always looking for new foster parents. Foster parents that take very good care of children are usually the ones that are chosen. Many of those who are eligible to be foster parents take part in hunting activities. The foster parents are encouraged to make sure that the children go to school. That's the way things are done. When it is necessary for children to go to foster parents, we try to put them in a calmer environment that is suitable. That is what the Department of Family Services tries to do for them, and we are always looking for new foster parents that can take very good care of children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the overwhelming majority of foster parents provide the best of care and support to the children they take into their homes.

Unfortunately it has been brought to my attention that a few foster parents provide this service primarily as a means to earn extra income. The concern has been raised that the foster children in their care are not treated well and it is just as a means to earn money.

Can the minister clarify whether he is aware of such situations and, if so, can he explain how his department deals with them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Foster parents are selected if a child needs care and has to be moved to a foster home. The first priority for Family Services is the immediate family of the foster child so that they can have a better place to be. I can consider this matter further, either through requesting a briefing or in getting information provided to me.

Since my colleague has provided this information about some foster parents only applying in order to derive income from foster children or the possibility of that occurring, I will need to carefully research this issue to see if that has occurred in the past. I will also check into the process, as prospective foster parents should be vetted and it relates to their capacity to perform as adequate foster parents that handle the required responsibilities.

Yes, I can consider that matter to see if some foster parents' motives include wanting to derive income from foster children. Yes, I can commit to informing the House if that happened to be the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 774 – 4(3): Accountability for Public Funds

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

Mr. Speaker, the mandate of the Department of Family Services is, in part, to provide a range of support services for children and vulnerable adults who may require protection or other specialized support. In many cases funding is actually provided through contracts, grants, or contributions to other parties to provide services on the government's behalf.

Can the minister clearly explain how his department ensures that services provided with government funds are delivered in an appropriate and accountable manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Hon. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we talk about contracts or contributions, we're dealing with public money, public funds, and we do our best to monitor all the contribution

agreements and contracts that go to services.

(interpretation) As I stated, the service providers must be monitored and taken care of properly to make sure they follow the conditions for using government funding. The Department of Family Services tries to use that properly with the ones that we have funding agreements with and we try to work well with other parties for those reasons, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From time to time, constituents bring forward concerns related to the staffing, policies, or services at facilities which are operated under a contract or through a grant or contribution from the government.

Can the minister clearly describe what steps are taken to follow up and address complaints and concerns about entities which provide support for vulnerable Nunavummiut with funds allocated through his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerns may arise related to any of the services funded through the Department of Family Services. When a concern is submitted, it would result in an investigation through the Department of Family Services.

The investigation would determine what transpired and whether any concerns cropped up. In particular, if considering investigations, it would include the Department of Finance and the Department of Justice. We partner with these departments when conducting investigations and collaborate on specific cases as required.

Further, the agreement for this service has several requirements which we try to follow, such as the agreed-to services provided, which all have monetary values that are the basis for the agreement. This forms the agreement with the various areas listed that will be covered.

Yes, the Department of Family Services can indeed review this issue or any other issue whenever a concern rises. This can include the return of the child or submitting recommendations to dissolve their foster parent status or deal with them in conjunction with the departments of Justice or Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That makes me think of a lot of questions I would like to ask to that response, but I'll keep to script here.

Mr. Speaker, it is very concerning to hear complaints or allegations about entities which provide services to vulnerable Nunavummiut. Will the minister commit to ensuring that any entity which receives money from his department either through contract, grant, or contribution is made aware of

its duty to provide adequate and appropriate services and be held completely accountable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government and as the Department of Family Services, our responsibility includes these funding agreements for provision of services.

Now, if we require an investigation of any kind related to funding irregularities, the agreements speak to the ethical usage of these funds. Because we require these services, whenever a question of impropriety arises, whether it is at a shelter, group, or elders facilities that we fund, if the managers are not providing the service which has been agreed to, then it would result in the penalties listed in the agreement due to its importance.

Yes, any agreement we have includes provisions related to impropriety and investigations. Any organization we have an agreement with requiring an investigation still has rights to be informed and to present a counter argument to the expressed concern about funding issues. As well, we have to inform the clients receiving the service. That is how it is structured.

If there's an agreement in place, the Nunavut government and the Department of Family Services have to follow the conditions of the agreement if they are agreed to and signed by the organization or the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok.

Question 775 – 4(3): Carpentry Course at Nunavut Arctic College

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, the minister will recall that in February of this year, I asked when the carpentry program would be delivered at the Rankin Inlet trade school campus. Can the minister provide an update on the current status of the Nunavut Arctic College carpentry program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Hon. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. In my report, if you will recall, I had stated the carpentry program was held in Iqaluit when the old Ukiivik residence was utilized. Since the old residence was closed and some of the programs were held there, we said that we would move the carpentry program to Rankin Inlet. It will go ahead in the next new school year and that's when it will be provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He responded to part

of this question, (interpretation ends) but I'm going to go ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the Rankin Inlet Nunavut Arctic College carpentry program has historically been delivered at the Iqaluit campus. Can the minister provide an update on what steps are being taken to ensure that the Rankin Inlet trade school facility will be adequately equipped and the necessary staff employed in time for the delivery of this program in the fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for continuing his line of questioning. The carpentry instructor who worked here will be moving over there. As I stated earlier, the program will continue. As the trade school already has facilities and equipment, I'm expecting this program to continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurток: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerns have been raised with regard to which trades and trades-related programs will be delivered at the Rankin Inlet trade school campus. Can the minister provide an overview of what steps are being taken to provide all trades-related training and programs at the Rankin Inlet campus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Hon. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different programs that can be delivered at the trade school, not just for carpentry. There are heavy equipment operator courses and government management studies. There are different trades courses that can be delivered at the Rankin Inlet campus and they have been successfully carried out. There will be some graduates from that school this year and I am proud of that.

The Rankin Inlet trade school is for trades training. The various programs will have instructors and the programs that are required will proceed in the new school year. As I stated earlier, the instructors will be moving from here. The programs that were available in Iqaluit will be moved to Rankin Inlet and I expect that to proceed smoothly.

We plan a year ahead for what programs will be made available and we know one year in advance who the instructors will be for what programs. Those are already set. I only expect this program to start successfully at the Rankin Inlet trade school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 776 – 4(3): Funding for Community Arena Upgrades

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, on February 29, 2016 he and his federal counterparts jointly announced that more than \$19 million in federal and territorial funding would be made available for “upgrading community arenas” in Nunavut under the federal Small Communities Fund.

During our recent winter sitting, my colleague, the Member of Aivilik, asked a number of questions concerning this funding. In his response the minister indicated that his department was conducting an assessment of community arenas at that time to determine which arenas would be upgraded. Can the minister update the House today on the status of that assessment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The arenas are being evaluated and it’s still about the same. We’re going to spend the money where we can extend the season the most and where we can get the most out of our money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our recent winter sitting, the minister also stated that arenas with the most health and safety hazards and arenas that do not have concrete pads and thermosiphons would be ranked highest to receive upgrades through this funding. Can the minister indicate if his department has conducted site visits to determine this information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Mr. Speaker, I can inform the member yes, the arenas that do get the updates would get concrete slabs put on there and thermosiphons to extend their season and any other upgrades for safety reasons that might be needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to formally announcing a list of recipient arenas that will be upgraded through that funding once the final decisions have been made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can inform him that I have no problem having the list here as soon as it is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My fellow members, please note that 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. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.

The Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

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

Committee Report 029 – 4(3): Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2016 Report on the Privacy Audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Independent Officers and Other Entities on its review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2016 report on her privacy audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Regulations* were inherited from the Northwest Territories on April 1, 1999 and it provides the Commissioner of Nunavut to appoint, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner for a five-year term of office.

Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts was reappointed on February 24, 2015 for a five-year term of office as Nunavut’s Information and Privacy Commissioner.

She is currently serving her fourth term as Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. Ms. Keenan Bengts also serves as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Between 1999 and 2012 a number of minor amendments to the legislation were made to address conflicts with other territorial statutes.

Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly passed Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, on June 8, 2012. The amendments made under Bill 38 provided clear authority for the Information and Privacy Commissioner to undertake privacy-related reviews concerning personal information held by public bodies. These amendments came into force on May 11, 2013.

In its report on the review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports, which were presented to the Legislative Assembly on October 28, 2014, the standing committee recommended that “The Government of Nunavut cooperate with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in undertaking at least one formal privacy audit of a department, Crown agency or territorial corporation.”

The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s report on the privacy audit of Qikiqtani General was tabled in the House on November 8, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee received the government’s formal response to the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s report on May 3, 2017.

For the benefit of the viewing public, the government’s formal response has been included as an appendix to the report that I am presenting today.

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 29 – 4(3).

The Information and Privacy Commissioner, along with her colleague Mr. Robert Gary Dickson, appeared before the standing committee to answer questions regarding the office's report and privacy audit on May 10 to 11, 2017.

Government officials from the Department of Health and the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs also appeared before the standing committee at that time.

The standing committee's hearings were televised live across the territory and were open to the public and news media to observe from the visitors' gallery. Transcripts from the standing committee's hearings will be made available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

A number of themes and issues emerged during the standing committee's review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's report on her first privacy audit of a government department.

As indicated in her report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner's audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital consisted of a thorough review of the government's policies and directives relating to privacy and protection of information, a number of interviews with government officials responsible for overseeing and implementing privacy initiatives within the hospital, and a site visit to the hospital.

The standing committee appreciates the level of detail provided in the

Information and Privacy Commissioner's report and supports each of the recommendations that were included.

The standing committee is concerned that the findings of the audit highlight a significant need for increased and more coordinated efforts within the hospital to effectively protect the privacy of patients' personal health information.

The standing committee notes that the government has made a number of efforts to address this need, including providing ATIPP training to hospital staff, developing some health-specific privacy directives, and amending its procedures within the hospital to ensure the physical security of personal health information. However, the standing committee is of the view that the department must provide more comprehensive and privacy-specific policies and training for hospital staff in order for it to meet its obligations under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and provide adequate safeguards for the protection of the personal information that it collects, uses, and discloses.

Mr. Speaker, while the standing committee recognizes that the scope of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's audit focused on the practices of the Qikiqtani General Hospital, the standing committee is of the view that the findings of that audit reflect a number of challenges that are also currently being experienced by community health centres across the territory. Accordingly the standing committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That the government develop a suite of policies that establish mandatory requirements and responsibilities for the protection of personal health information that is collected, used, or disclosed by the hospital, community health centres, and all other health service providers in the territory.
2. That the government develop a comprehensive and privacy-specific training program for hospital and community health staff.
3. That the government clearly assign the role and responsibilities of a privacy officer to a specific individual or a small number of individuals within the hospital until such a time as a privacy officer position can be filled.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee commends the Information and Privacy Commissioner for her hard work in conducting this audit and looks forward to reading future reports on her office's future audits.

Mr. Speaker, I would note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has moved that the report be received and

entered into the record as read by the House. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The report has been received.

Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 321 – 4(3): Program Directive: Student Placement, Promotion and Retention

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table a directive that was signed by the last Minister of Education which opened the doors for social promotion, dated September 2013. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hickes.

Tabled Document 322 – 4(3): Correspondence to MLA Pat Angnakak dated November 18, 2016

Tabled Document 323 – 4(3): iEHR Privacy and Security Directive

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table today.

The first, correspondence with MLA Pat Angnakak dated November 18, 2016, of

which I will make a point of order at the appropriate time.

The second document, today I am tabling the Department of Health's iEHR privacy and security directive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 324 – 4(3): 2016 Report on the Administration of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table today the 2016 *Report on the Administration of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Tabled Document 325 – 4(3): Pangnirtung Classes of 2017 and 1932

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in my member's statement, I am tabling the invitation from the 2017 graduates in Pangnirtung, as well as the photograph that came from the class of 1932 in Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Hon.

Minister of Health, Hon. George Hickes.

Point of Order

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise a point of order on a question that was asked by MLA Pat Angnakak earlier today accusing me of not responding to a request for information.

Mr. Speaker, the number of correspondence that goes out of my office on a weekly basis is quite excessive, and I should have remembered at the time that I did respond to the member's question that she accused me today of not responding to back on November 18, 2016.

There were some comments or sounds made after the question was raised that I did not respond to the question. I know all members here are very aware and cognizant of how I deal with their requests for information, that I take them all very seriously. Basically I just don't appreciate the accusation that I didn't respond when it was very clear that I did respond to the member. I would appreciate an apology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have in front of me the document tabled by the minister. The page has provided a copy to Ms. Angnakak. Ms. Angnakak, to the point of order.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't really satisfied with this response because it didn't really answer all of the questions that I had. It left out contract details that I wanted and I feel that it's really important to

Nunavummiut that they have that kind of information of how public dollars are being spent.

You talked a little bit about the OSHNI case, but it didn't go into some of the questions that I was asking. I thought it was important today to raise that again, that it's about contracts. I think it's really important that Nunavummiut know how their money is being spent.

I am sorry. I will apologize if I came across as rude or disrespectful. I apologize to the member, but at the same time I think it's really important that we get the answers that we're looking for, that we don't get half answers; we get all of these answers that we are looking for. I think that's where I was coming from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There was a point of order and the member has apologized.

(interpretation) Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Notice

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, I will move that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring*

Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, be read for the first time.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 47 – An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Legal Profession 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. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

Bill 48 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act – First Reading

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Aggu, that Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy 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.

(interpretation) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of the House to waive the notice period so that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, can be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to allow Bill 50 to be read for the first time today. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Rumbolt, you may proceed.

Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – First Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances 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. The motion is carried.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of the House to waive the notice period so that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, can be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to allow Bill 50 to be read for the second time today. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Rumbolt, you may proceed.

Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Second Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the *Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act* to harmonize the timing of actual valuations with the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All

those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 50 is referred to the Committee of the Whole as it is a House Bill.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 27, 49, and 50 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 47 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:14 and Committee resumed at 16:40*

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 49 and 50. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome back, members. Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with the review of Bill 49, followed by Bill 50. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 49?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 49 – An Act to Provide for Elections for Municipal Councils and District Education Authorities – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Speaker of this House: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Yes, I do.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the Speaker and his officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the Speaker's officials in.

(interpretation ends) For the record, Speaker Qulaut, please introduce your officials.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To my right is (interpretation ends) Chief Electoral Officer for Nunavut Dustin Fredlund and Legal Counsel for Elections Nunavut Patrick Orr. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to note for the record that this will be Mr. Fredlund's first appearance as Nunavut's chief electoral officer. Welcome, Mr. Fredlund and Mr. Orr.

>>*Applause*

Thank you. Please proceed with your opening comments, Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide opening comments concerning Bill 49, *An Act to Provide for Elections for Municipal Councils and District Education Authorities*.

Bill 49 is the result of a number of years of hard work on the part of Elections Nunavut and its partners. As members will recall, this initiative has been noted in the chief electoral officer's recent annual reports to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, significant consultation has gone into this initiative. Over the past several years Elections Nunavut has met on a number of occasions with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators, individual municipal councils, regional mayors' groupings, the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities, and other partners.

I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank the many leaders and organizations at the community level who have contributed to the development of this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our televised proceedings today, I wish to highlight the key features of Bill 49.

The objective of this legislation is to harmonize the procedures and administration for elections to municipal councils and district education authorities under the authority of the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

To the greatest extent possible, all elections for the municipal councils, district education authorities, and the Legislative Assembly itself will be conducted under the same set of rules and elections results for its institutions will be publicly posted on Election Nunavut's website.

The chief electoral officer will have overall responsibility for the conduct of local elections and his annual reports to the Legislative Assembly will account to the Members of this House for Elections Nunavut's work in this area.

As members will recall, the first bill passed by the current Legislative Assembly introduced fixed election dates for territorial elections. The next general election will be held in October of this year. Bill 49 provides that all elections for the municipal councils and district education authorities will be held on the fourth Monday of October. Office-holders will have a standard four-year term.

As members will recognize, a transitional period is required to implement this legislation. The transitional rules begin on October 1, 2018 and all new rules begin on April 1, 2019. Consequently there will be no elections for municipal councils in October, November, or December of 2018.

All municipal councillors who hold office on October 1, 2018 will have their terms automatically extended or shortened, depending on when their term ends, to noon on October 29, 2019, the date on which elections to municipal councils and district education

authorities will be held across the territory in all communities.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions that my colleagues may have. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? (interpretation) General comments, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding the opening comments. For the record, just so that the listening public has an idea of why we are doing what we are doing, in your opening comments and in the bill it talks about only hamlets and DEAs are affected by this legislation. I would like if they could explain exactly why we're doing it this way and we're not including housing associations or other entities in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): I would like the person to my right, Dustin, to respond to this, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Fredlund.

Mr. Fredlund: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to present for the first time, as noted, as chief electoral officer. Thank you for the question, Mr. Rumbolt.

The purpose of this bill is to harmonize the election rules for entities that are under the *Local Authorities Elections Act* with the *Nunavut Elections Act*. Currently only the district education authorities and the municipal councils are recognized under that Act. The reason why we're moving forward with only the district education authorities and the municipal councils is because they're the only ones that are recognized. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook. (interpretation) My apologies. I don't have any more names on my list for questions. We will proceed.

No one has their hand up. (interpretation ends) Go to your legislation binders and go to Bill 49 for the clause-by-clause review.

(interpretation) I believe you all have the bill in front of you now. We will proceed. (interpretation ends) Bill 49, *An Act to Provide for Elections for Municipal Councils and District Education Authorities*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 49 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 49 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments on Bill 49, (interpretation) Speaker, Mr. Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): I thank you very much and our fellow Nunavummiut who took part in putting this together, especially the hamlet councils and district education authorities. They answered the questions very clearly during the consultations.

I would also like to thank my assistants here, Patrick Orr and Dustin Fredlund. They did a lot of work on this and I thank them very much. I also thank you all. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

(interpretation ends) Speaker Qulaut, do you have different officials that you want to appear before the committee? Mr. Qulaut.

**Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the
Legislative Assembly Retiring
Allowances Act and the
Supplementary Retiring
Allowances Act – Consideration in
Committee**

Speaker (interpretation): Sorry. (interpretation ends) Yes, I do.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the witnesses in?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

>>Laughter

For the record, Speaker Qulaut, please introduce your officials. Mr. Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Beside me is the Clerk of the House, John Quirke.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please feel welcome. You can proceed with your opening comments, Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide some brief opening comments concerning Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

This bill amends the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* to harmonize the timing of actuary valuations with the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions that my colleagues may have. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Are there any general comments? I don't see anyone raise their

hand. (interpretation ends) Go to your legislative binders and Bill 50.

(interpretation) I believe you have it in front of you now. (interpretation ends) Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 50 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 50 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) That bill is done. You can now make your closing remarks, Speaker Qulaut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. As Speaker of the House and the Clerk, John Quirke, beside me, we both thank all of you and all of the MLAs for passing this very important bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies, Mr. Chairman.

>>Laughter

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I almost got promoted

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the Speaker's official out.

(interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress.

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: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 49 and Bill 50 and would like to report that Bills 49 and 50 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? (interpretation ends) Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook. The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 49 – An Act to Provide for Elections for Municipal Councils and District Education Authorities – Third Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 49, *An Act to Provide for Elections for Municipal Councils and District Education Authorities*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Third Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

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

(interpretation) Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for June 7:

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 47

- Bill 48

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

- Bill 27

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 7, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:05*

Appendix – June 6, 2017



**Standing Committee on
Public Accounts, Independent Officers and Other Entities**

***Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's
2016 Report on the Privacy Audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital***

**3rd Session of the 4th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Spring 2017 Sitting**

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Introduction

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides for the Commissioner of Nunavut to appoint, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner for a five-year term of office.

Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts was reappointed on February 24, 2015, for a 5-year term of office as Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner. This is her fourth term as Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. Ms. Keenan Bengts also serves as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and regulations made under the Act were inherited from the Northwest Territories on April 1, 1999. Between 1999 and 2012, a number of minor amendments to the legislation were made to address conflicts with other territorial statutes.

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, received 1st Reading on June 1, 2012. Bill 38 received Assent on June 8, 2012. These amendments provided clear authority for the Information and Privacy Commissioner to undertake privacy-related reviews concerning personal information held by public bodies. The amendments came into force on May 11, 2013.

In its *Report on the Review of the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner*, which was presented to the Legislative Assembly on October 28, 2014, the standing committee recommended that "the Government of Nunavut co-operate with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in undertaking at least one formal privacy audit of a department, Crown agency or territorial corporation during the 2015-2016 fiscal year."

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's *Report on the Privacy Audit of the Qikiqtani General* was tabled in the House on November 8, 2016. The standing committee received a copy of the government's formal response to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's report on May 3, 2017, entitled *Department of Health Responses to IPC QGH Privacy Audit Recommendations* (Appendix A).

The May 10-11, 2017, appearances of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and Government of Nunavut officials before the standing committee took place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee's hearings were televised live across the territory and were open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. Transcripts from the standing committee's hearings will be available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Observations and Recommendations

Issue: Legislation and Policy

In her 2016 *Report on the Privacy Audit of the Qikiqtani General Hospital*, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommends that the Government of Nunavut develop health-specific privacy legislation. The Information and Privacy Commissioner has been advocating for the development of this legislation for over a decade.

In its May 3, 2017, formal response to the recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the government stated that:

“Health is leading a Committee with representation from across the Department and Justice; the Committee is developing a legislative proposal (LP) as well as developing a list of privacy related activities that can be undertaken in the absence of legislation. It is anticipated that the legislative proposal will be submitted at the beginning of the next government.”

The standing committee continues to encourage the department to work closely with the Information and Privacy Commissioner on the development of health-specific privacy legislation.

The standing committee is aware that it may be a number of years before health-specific privacy legislation is passed and brought into force in Nunavut. In the meantime, there are a number of outstanding issues concerning the protection of patients’ privacy that the standing committee believes need to be addressed as soon as possible.

Section 42 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* mandates that:

42. The head of a public body shall protect personal information by making reasonable security arrangements against such risks as unauthorized access, collection, use, disclosure or disposal.

In her report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner describes various types of security arrangements and safeguards that can be implemented to achieve that goal. She states that:

“Safeguards against breaches of privacy might be categorized as soft or hard. ‘Soft’ safeguards are things like requiring employees to provide a privacy pledge or oath, providing robust training, providing staff with a comprehensive set of policies and procedures for privacy protection.”

Unfortunately, in her report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner also states that:

“What the Audit further revealed is that there is no privacy management program which is up-to-date, comprehensive and widely understood and supported. Without such a privacy management program, the efforts we did find to promote privacy awareness and compliance tend to be fragmented, inconsistent, and not well understood by all staff at QGH.”

In her report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicates that, during the course of her site visit to the Qikiqtani General Hospital, she witnessed several cases where personal health information was being improperly collected and retained on the premises.

During the standing committee’s May 10-11, 2017, televised hearing, government officials indicated that a number of procedures that are intended to ensure that personal health information is secured and protected are now being implemented. Some of these procedures include timed screensavers for the hospital’s computers, newly secured offices with limited and electronic access, and the transfer of patient files from paper to electronic format.

The standing committee commends the hospital for its efforts. However, the standing committee is of the view that the hospital must develop and implement clear and comprehensive policies to ensure that all staff are adhering to those procedures and protecting patients’ personal health information to the greatest extent possible.

The standing committee is aware that the government has implemented a number of policies concerning access to information and privacy, and has produced a comprehensive *Privacy Management Manual*, which may be accessed and used as a resource by all government employees, including hospital staff. In its introduction, this Manual reads:

“The Privacy Management Manual (PMM) is a comprehensive set of tools and resources to be used by all employees of the Government of Nunavut to successfully implement the privacy provisions of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP) Act. All employees are required to familiarize themselves with the PMM as the ATIPP Act holds each employee accountable for the privacy of personal information under the custody and control of the government.”

However, in her report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that her office's audit "revealed very little familiarity with the Manual within QGH." She also stated that:

"Despite the statement in section 8 of the Manual. that the document is designed to "assist the ATIPP Manager and ATIPP Coordinators in their efforts to prevent privacy incidents and privacy breaches by identifying existing gaps and weaknesses in the systems, policies and practices of public bodies", we found no evidence that either privacy inspections or privacy compliance audits have been done in QGH prior to this audit."

During the standing committee's May 10-11, 2017, televised hearing, government officials did not provide much information on what, if any, privacy-specific policies and procedures are currently in place at the hospital. Government officials did provide some information on seven specific directives related to electronic health information, but these directives were, according to the Information and Privacy Commissioner, out-of-date and had not been implemented at the time of her audit.

During the standing committee's May 10-11, 2017, televised hearing, government officials testified that:

"The question was for a list of the privacy.... I'm not sure on the exact wording, but the directives and the policies and so on. All of them are actually located in the report of the privacy commissioner. She had already included them in the appendix. The only thing that I would have to add to that is the privacy and security directives that guide employees, contractors and agents of the Government of Nunavut on matters concerning the management of e-Health systems, including the iEHR system and there are seven directives and I'll read them into the record. The seven directives include monitoring and audit of e-Health systems, e-Health information security, retention and disposal of electronic personal information, e-Health information privacy and password management for e-Health systems, collection use and disclosure of personal information in e-Health systems and finally e-Health access control. These are the directives that are being translated and will be tabled."

The standing committee is concerned that the department appears to only have prepared policies for personal health information that is collected, used and disclosed through its "e-Health systems," despite the fact that the hospital and community health centres are all operating on a hybrid system where personal health information is currently being retained in both paper and electronic formats.

While the standing committee recognizes that the Department of Health has made efforts to develop directives, policies and other materials to inform its employees of privacy best practices and expectations, these efforts need more coordination and monitoring.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a list of all formal policies that it currently has in place at the Qikiqtani General Hospital concerning the protection of privacy or access to information.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut develop a suite of policies that establish mandatory requirements and responsibilities for the protection of personal health information that is collected, used or disclosed by the hospital, community health centres, and all other health service providers in the territory.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its work to develop privacy-specific policies for the hospital and community health centres, ensure that the following areas are addressed:

- A definition of personal health information;
- A limited list of persons who may receive access to personal health information;
- Training that will be required of persons who are provided with access to personal health information;
- Oaths of confidentiality or standards of conduct that must be acknowledged and agreed to by persons who may receive access to personal health information;
- A list of persons responsible for implementing privacy protection measures and all guiding principles that must be acknowledged and agreed to by such persons;
- A list of the circumstances under which personal health information may be accessed;
- Established procedures and processes that may be used to retain or destroy personal health information;
- Specific measures that will be taken to monitor the implementation of legislation and policies concerning privacy protection;
- Limits on the manner and scope that personal health information may be collected;
- Limits on the use, disclosure and retention of personal health information;
- A list of security safeguards that must be in place at each facility;

- An established process by which a person may access their information;
- Established procedures or processes by which health care service providers or the department must inform patients of their right to access their own personal health information;
- An established process by which a person can submit complaints and inquiries regarding their request to access their information;
- Established procedures and processes for addressing privacy incident and breaches specific to the hospital and community health centres;
- Established procedures or processes by which the hospital or community health centres will conduct privacy impact assessments; and
- Established rules for the agreements under which a health service provider may share personal health information, including the responsibilities of any third party service providers who receive access to personal health information under such agreements.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline by which it plans to have completed a suite of comprehensive policies for the protection of personal health information.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut makes all policies related to the protection of personal health information available to the public as early as practicable.

Issue: Training

In order to implement or administer any privacy-related legislation or policy, the Department of Health ultimately relies on each individual employee in the hospital to understand and comply with appropriate practices and procedures concerning the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information.

In her report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner raises concerns that the department is not providing hospital staff with sufficient information or training on privacy best practices. In her report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“We found that there is no comprehensive privacy training program for new hires nor in-service training on privacy best practices.”

In her report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that:

“There should be comprehensive compulsory privacy training with appropriate privacy training materials for all QGH staff. This should include training on the Meditech system.”

In its May 3, 2017, formal response to the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s report, the government did not clearly indicate if it agrees that comprehensive and privacy-specific training should be compulsory for all hospital staff. Instead, in response to this specific recommendation, the government only makes reference to “training on the Meditech system.”

During the standing committee’s May 10-11, 2017, televised hearing, government officials did provide some information on the training that it is currently provided to hospital staff to inform them of privacy best practices and of their obligations under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. During the standing committee’s televised hearing, the following exchange took place:

“Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. One final question. On page 41 of the report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner states that she found stacks of patient files sitting on unattended desks during the course of her audit. What types of training does your department provide to hospital staff to inform them of privacy best practices? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Ms. Stockley.

Ms. Stockley: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Again, it's an on-the-job type of training that is provided on orientation with periodic updates through directives coming from the department, newsletters, and updates shared with staff. Thank you, Madam Chairperson."

During the standing committee's May 10-11, 2017, televised hearing, government officials also testified that:

"Health provides periodic communications to its staff such as ATIPP coordinator guides on topics such as proper encryption of confidential information, sending and receiving electronic and physical mail, and how to properly save files to protected drives. Information related to privacy protection is also disseminated through interdepartmental newsletters. Staff training opportunities around records management and ATIPP training are available and provided by the Government of Nunavut, as well as through presentations offered to community health staff groups during meetings and conferences."

During the standing committee's May 10-11, 2017 televised hearing, government officials also testified that:

"We do regular circulation of privacy directives for staff and the expectation is that they will inform their patients, their clients. We do consistent training and presentations for all staff. We do standard orientation presentations for new frontline health care providers, and we do information dissemination through the two health internal newsletters called *The Pulse* and *The Connection* that are distributed right throughout the territory to health care providers."

The standing committee is concerned that the training described by government officials is not sufficient to constitute comprehensive and privacy-specific training, for a number of reasons.

First of all, there appears to be no expectation that **all** hospital staff should have **privacy-specific** training. The official's testimony that the department does provide "consistent training and presentations for all staff" was not supplemented by any clear description of what components are included in that training. The official's testimony that "standard orientation presentations [are provided] for new frontline health care providers" does not explicitly confirm that this "orientation presentation" includes clear and specific information related to privacy best practices.

Secondly, if not all staff are required to take privacy-specific training at this time, there still appears to be no clear policy, directive or guideline that specifies **which** hospital staff must have **privacy-specific** training.

Furthermore, in their testimony, government officials made no mention of any mechanism to track whether or not staff who are required to take privacy-specific training do, in fact, take that training.

The standing committee recognizes that the Department of Health makes efforts to provide ATIPP training to hospital and community health centre staff. However, in the same way that the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* does not provide the necessary health-specific legislative framework that the territory needs, the standing committee is of the view that the related ATIPP training does not provide the specific information that hospital and health centre staff need to know in order to protect the patients' privacy to the greatest extent possible.

The standing committee is also concerned about the department's apparent reliance on the use of presentations and "information dissemination" in providing information and training on privacy best practices to hospital staff. Presentations do not measure the extent to which an individual is knowledgeable about a particular subject and while information dissemination, in forms such as newsletters, may be informative, it is difficult to determine if the information disseminated is in fact being absorbed and used by the intended audience.

While the standing committee commends the Department of Health for its efforts to inform and train hospital staff of privacy best practices, it agrees with the Information and Privacy Commissioner that a comprehensive and privacy-specific training program needs to be developed for all hospital and community health centre staff.

The standing committee is of the view that without comprehensive and privacy-specific training for all staff, it will be very difficult for the hospital and community health centres to confidently assure their patients that they are equipped to protect personal health information.

Standing Committee Recommendation #2

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut develop a comprehensive training program for hospital and community health centre staff that includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

- Information and procedures related to the patient's right to access;
- Information and procedures related to identifying and reporting privacy breaches and incidents;
- A specific list of individuals that staff may contact with concerns related to privacy protection in the hospital;
- Implementing privacy best practices in the workplace, including,
 - Storing, transferring and destroying paper and electronic files,
 - Use of email, fax, mobile and other electronic devices,
 - Having conversations in open spaces, and
 - Sharing information with third parties;
- Detailed training on all relevant policies, directives and procedures that may be in place at the facility at that time.

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline by which it plans to complete this comprehensive training program.

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut make the above-mentioned training program compulsory for all employees who may have access to personal health information that is used, collected, or disclosed by the Government of Nunavut.

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut implement a system to track and monitor all privacy-specific training that is provided to staff, including any training related to the use of Meditech.

Issue: Oversight

The presence of privacy-specific training programs and policies alone will not be sufficient to ensure that adequate safeguards are in place to protect patients' privacy. These privacy training programs, policies and all other efforts will need to be focused, coordinated and monitored before privacy best practices are implemented at the hospital in a thorough and consistent manner.

In her report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that the department appoint a Privacy Officer, who will have a designated leadership role in privacy compliance efforts within the hospital. This Privacy Officer should also have the mandate to develop a comprehensive privacy management program, providing advice on privacy compliance to the regional and community health centres. The Information and Privacy Commissioner also recommended that this Privacy Officer be responsible for:

- Providing input on achieving good privacy compliance in new programs, new software and policies for the hospital and community health centres;
- Developing a full suite of written policies and procedures for privacy compliance;
- Overseeing staff privacy training for all new hires, in-service training for existing employees, as well as volunteers and contractors;
- Ensuring that all out-sourcing contracts that involve significant volumes of personal health information include the necessary privacy protections; and,
- Ensuring that patients are made aware of their privacy rights.

The standing committee agrees with the Information and Privacy Commissioner's recommendation and emphasises that the department must make every effort to ensure that the above-mentioned responsibilities are being fulfilled, even in the absence of a formal privacy officer.

During the standing committee's May 10-11, 2017, televised hearing, government officials supplemented that response and testified that:

"While we agree with that, we actually had a privacy officer position. It went out for competition and was never successful in being filled. I believe the first time it went out for competition was in 2011. Instead of having nobody to do it, we now have two positions that share responsibilities for the job that one person would do in many other jurisdictions. That is how we have tried to do what we could here in our territory. We have the responsibility for privacy divided between two

positions. One is a clinical adviser and one is a quality assurance and risk management coordinator. I'm happy to say both of those positions are filled.”

The standing committee recognizes that it may be a number of years yet before the department successfully fills a privacy officer position. The standing committee encourages the department to identify a specific position or position(s) that will be responsible for providing that focus, coordination and monitoring until such a time as a privacy officer is appointed at the hospital.

Standing Committee Recommendation #3

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline by which the department plans to open a privacy officer position for competition.

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed listing of the specific positions that will be responsible for each of the following tasks within the hospital and community health centres:

- Leading privacy compliance efforts;
- Developing a comprehensive privacy management program;
- Providing advice on privacy compliance to the regional and community health centres;
- Providing input on achieving good privacy compliance in new programs, new software and policies for the hospital and community health centres;
- Developing a full suite of written policies and procedures for privacy compliance;
- Overseeing staff privacy training for all new hires, in-service training for existing employees, as well as volunteers and contractors;
- Ensuring that all out-sourcing contracts that involve significant volumes of personal health information include the necessary privacy protections; and,
- Ensuring that patients are made aware of their privacy rights.

Department of Health Responses to IPC QGH Privacy Audit Recommendations

IPC Recommendation #1:

That the QGH and all other health facilities in Nunavut be designated in the ATIPPA Regulations as a “public body.”

Health Response: QGH (as all Health Centres) is not a stand-alone entity, but rather reports to the Deputy Minister of Health through the Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations. Therefore, it is a public body under the oversight of the Department of Health and subject to the ATIPPA. If the Government of Nunavut should, in the future, establish Health Authorities with separate Governance Authorities, this recommendation could be revisited and applied to all health care facilities in the territory, as governed by applicable legislation.

IPC Recommendation #2:

That the GN develop a stand-alone health information law similar to such laws in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Health Response: Health is leading a Committee with representation from across the Department and Justice; the Committee is developing a Legislative Proposal (LP) as well as developing a list of privacy related activities that can be undertaken in the absence of legislation. It is anticipated that the legislative proposal will be submitted at the beginning of the next government.

The Committee is currently working to develop a culture of privacy within the Department of Health through the following activities:

- regular circulation of privacy directives for staff;
- consistent training and presentations for all staff;
- standard orientation presentations for new front-line health care providers; and
- information dissemination through the Pulse and the Connection (Health’s internal newsletters).

IPC Recommendation #3:

Focus should be on ensuring that the law is as straight-forward and accessible as possible. That should facilitate better understanding and ultimately higher levels of compliance at QGH.

Health Response: A jurisdictional scan was completed by the Committee on specific privacy legislation with the aim of implementing legislation that is accessible and appropriate for Nunavut.

IPC Recommendation #4:

That QGH appoint a Privacy Officer with the following features:

1. *Designated leadership role to lead the privacy compliance efforts in QGH;*
2. *Sufficiently senior to be able to have ready access to the CEO and senior management;*
3. *Mandated to develop a comprehensive privacy management program;*
4. *To provide input to the CEO and senior management on achieving good privacy compliance in new programs, new software and policies;*

5. *To be responsible for developing a full suite of written policies and procedures for privacy compliance and to oversee staff privacy training both the orientation of new hires and in-service training for existing employees as well as volunteers and contractors;*
6. *To ensure proper privacy protection in out-sourcing contracts that involve significant volumes of personal health information;*
7. *To be the key liaison between the QGH and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner;*
8. *To be closely associated with the Records Department and the IT Department to ensure that privacy considerations are regularly and fully canvassed by those departments in the course of their work;*
9. *To consider how to ensure that information about patient's privacy rights are brought to the attention of patients and the public by means of brochures, posters and the QGH website.*
10. *To take steps to ensure that the QGH Quality Assurance Coordinator and that officer's work do not in any way interfere, obstruct or impair the role and focus on the Privacy Officer and the privacy rights of patients and members of the public. This would include at a minimum ensuring that the Coordinator receives appropriate privacy training and that there is clear communication between the Coordinator and the Privacy Officer.*

Health Response: The Department will give this recommendation serious consideration as it develops and implements Health Specific Privacy legislation. The responsibility for privacy at QGH is divided between the Clinical Advisor (CA) and the Quality Assurance and Risk Management Coordinator (QARM). The Clinical Advisor is accountable for the development of policy, procedures, practices, and guidelines for IHS. The CA is also accountable for the development of educational material related to privacy. The QARM is accountable for the Quality, Safety, and Risk piece, which includes the reporting, analysis, review, capture, and reporting of events (near misses, incidents, and sentinel events), as well as disclosure. As part of this process, Iqaluit Health Services is currently working on the development of a monthly events reporting and analysis report, which will provide an overview of all events, and will designate privacy breaches as a separate item on the report. The ATIPP manager and ATIPP Coordinator will be involved to ensure these processes are consistent with legislation and already established protocols.

IPC Recommendation #5:

That for purposes of dealing with privacy breaches in QGH, all breaches be tracked and privacy incidents be understood to mean only apparent breaches that haven't yet been confirmed.

Health Response: The implementation of an electronic incident reporting system will not be pursued until such time as the Quality Improvement (QI) Unit is staffed. The preliminary work prior to the implementation of an electronic system will require the review, revision & stream lining of the paper based incident reporting system & developing the business processes to support this implementation. Iqaluit Health Services is currently tracking all breaches as part of our events reporting and analysis process. This means that privacy breaches are reported, analysed, reviewed, and captured along with all other near misses, events, incidents, sentinel events, etc. Please also see note under item #4 for more information on planned next steps.

IPC Recommendation #6:

That the QGH develop a privacy management program to capture the role of a Privacy Officer, clear and accessible policies and procedures for the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information, staff privacy orientation and training and then, transparency of this program to the public. A relevant and useful guide is provided by the 2013 COACH Guidelines for the Protection of Health Information. Such a privacy management program might incorporate the relevant and appropriate provisions of the GN Privacy Management Manual that we have reviewed, subject to our concerns already identified.

Health Response: Health agrees with the need to further develop privacy management programming and has already commenced this initiative. The Department wants to achieve a system that will address the territorial health system, including QGH.

IPC Recommendation #7:

That the Privacy Officer for the QGH work with the Office of Patient Relations and the Quality Improvement Coordinator to develop protocols to ensure that the information privacy rights of patients are not in any way compromised or diminished by the quality improvement initiative. This would include ensuring that through posters, brochures and the QGH, the public clearly understands the different roles of these offices.

Health Response: As noted under recommendation #4, the responsibility for privacy at QGH is divided between the Clinical Advisor (CA) and the Quality Assurance and Risk Management Coordinator (QARM). The Clinical Advisor is accountable for the development of policy, procedures, practices, and guidelines for Iqaluit Health Services. The CA is also accountable for the development of educational material related to privacy. The QARM is accountable for the Quality, Safety, and Risk piece, which includes the reporting, analysis, review, capture, and reporting of events (near misses, incidents, and sentinel events), as well as disclosure. As part of this process, Iqaluit Health Services is currently working on the development of a monthly events reporting and analysis report, which will provide an overview of all events, and will designate privacy breaches as a separate item on the report. The ATIPP manager and ATIPP Coordinator will be involved to ensure these processes are consistent with legislation and already established protocols. The Department is exploring possible protocols within the Office of Patient Relations as per this recommendation.

IPC Recommendation #8:

That the Department of Health proceed with its stated plan to consider implementing an electronic health record and ensure that the appropriate policies and procedures are in place to accommodate that.

Health Response: The Department of Health and Department of Community and Government Services have in place a comprehensive plan. Close to 50% of EMR roll-out has been completed and the remainder is anticipated to occur by the end of December 2017.

IPC Recommendation #9:

Ensure that all health records staff receive adequate training with respect to relevant requirements of ATIPPA as well as privacy best practices.

Health Response: Health concurs that this must be an important practice and standard. Health is committed to conducting an assessment of current practice to identify gaps and best practices.

IPC Recommendation #10:

That the Health Records office and operations be reviewed to determine improvements that can be made to security of the paper files, ensuring a sign out–sign in procedure to ensure tracking of movement of the patient file within QGH.

Health Response: Health will commit to review current practices, identify gaps and areas for improvement.

IPC Recommendation #11:

Implementation of a clean desk policy to prevent the accumulation of patient files on unattended desks in the Records Department area.

Health Response: Health does not currently have a clean desk policy for QGH. Health will review the current policies and ensure that this item is captured. Health will also review screen lock/current time out within Health Centres and QGH. This will also assist in protecting patient files.

IPC Recommendation #12:

Limit the opportunity for other hospital staff to access patient paper files without a clinical purpose.

Health Response: Health supports this recommendation and will follow-up on this recommendation to ensure safeguards are in place to limit access. The Health Information Management Office (previously Health Records) has developed an office access protocol. Access to the office is controlled by an access card, and an access rights list has been developed. Employees of the Health Information Management Office and Iqaluit Health Services Senior Leaders (Executive Director and Directors), as well as Nursing Managers, have access to the office to ensure due diligence in protecting the information, while allowing for access to the information when it is necessary for the purposes of the delivery of care.

IPC Recommendation #13:

Consider how the Health Records office can provide more support to QGH staff in adopting and following ATIPPA compliant procedures and privacy best practices as outlined in the 2013 Guidelines of COACH.

Health Response: Health will commit to reviewing and evaluating this recommendation.

IPC Recommendation #14:

That QGH develop a comprehensive plan including a deadline to complete the conversion of paper records to digital format including undertaking a security assessment of the process and the Meditech system.

Health Response:

- The Department of Health and Department of Community and Government Services have in place a comprehensive plan. Close to 50% of EMR roll-out is complete and the remainder is anticipated to be finalized by the end of December 2017.
- A PIA and TRA was completed prior to implementing MEDITECH. Health intends to update the PIA and TRA prior to the end of 2017. Results of these assessments will be appended to the original documents.
- The iEHR steering committee will review and evaluate the recommendation to address EHR conversion from paper to digital format.

IPC Recommendation #15:

That the QGH consider developing a Privacy Charter modelled on the sample in Appendix B to the 2003 COACH Guidelines. This would be based on the QGH's privacy and information handling policies and would be available to patients and the public.

Health Response: The Department will consider this recommendation and how it can apply this initiative across the territory to include QGH.

IPC Recommendation #16:

That QGH develop and disseminate informational brochures, posters and other educational materials for the general public outlining their rights with respect to access to their own personal health information and with respect to appropriate collection, use and disclosure of their PHI and how they can address concerns about these things.

Health Response: This initiative is currently being addressed through the Department's review of its patient relations division, the creation of the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) unit and requirements as part of developing Health Specific Privacy Legislation.

IPC Recommendation #17:

There should be comprehensive compulsory privacy training with appropriate privacy training materials for all QGH staff. This should include training on the Meditech system.

Health Response: Please see response under recommendation #8.

IPC Recommendation #18:

No employee should become an accredited user of Meditech unless there is evidence they have successfully completed the privacy training.

Health Response: This recommendation is addressed through our current training program.

IPC Recommendation #19:

When any employee attempts to enter the Meditech system, the screen should display a caution against any collection, use or disclosure without a legitimate need for that employee to know the subject PHI.

Health Response: The Department agrees with this recommendation and has commenced its work with MEDITECH and our Healthtech to complete this work. It will become a standard message.

IPC Recommendation #20

The 'reason to visit' should be a required field for any employee entering the Meditech system.

Health Response: This is a requirement on the registration screen; however Health will review the current format to ensure protection of client privacy.

IPC Recommendation #21:

QGH should develop a masking option which would allow a patient to designate certain elements of their PHI not to be accessible without the patient's express consent.

Health Response: This is a business solution that is available within Meditech. Health agrees with this recommendation and will initiate the process to establish an appropriate policy.

IPC Recommendation #22:

The QGH should ensure that access to Meditech is closed immediately upon any employee no longer requires access whether by resignation, dismissal or change in position or for any other reason.

Health Response: Currently when an employee leaves the employment of the GN, an employee clearance form is submitted to Community and Government Services. Once submitted, GN-Health access is terminated and the employee can no longer access MEDITECH. Once web-based Ambulatory is introduced, Health will also include a Health IT clearance form that will trigger the same actions when an employee no longer is employed by the GN-Health.

IPC Recommendation #23:

There should be a policy/procedure for suspending Meditech access privileges for anyone who has abused their user privileges.

Health Response: Currently, MEDITECH access can be suspended at the request of either a Manager/Director. We agree with this recommendation and Health will move to formalize this process with the development of a Health IT policy.

IPC Recommendation #24:

The system should be configured so that it can randomly and pro-actively monitor access to the system and raise flags where anomalies are detected so that unauthorized access can be minimized.

Health Response: Health agrees with this recommendation and Health IT is currently working with Healthtech Consultants to assist Health IT with the development of the requirements and procurement of an auditing tool for EHR.

IPC Recommendation #25:

That QGH develop a comprehensive policy for fax transmissions and the process when there are misdirected faxes.

Health Response: Health will review and evaluate current policy to identify gaps and take steps to address this recommendation. The events reporting and analysis process, which is the same process that is used to identify, analyze, track, and respond to all potential incidents also applied to misdirected faxes. As such, when a misdirected fax is reported, it is treated like any other event that potentially constitutes an incident, and is handled in the exact same manner.

IPC Recommendation #26:

That QGH ensure that fax machines are in secure areas of the facility not accessible to the general public.

Health Response: Health is in agreement and will implement a plan to effect this requirement. The Department has evaluated the location of all fax machines at QGH. It was determined that one fax machine was not in compliance, and the team is currently working on placing the said fax machine in a location that will ensure security of the information.

IPC Recommendation #27

That QGH develop an appropriate email/texting policy that specifically addresses personal information and personal health information.

Health Response: Health will review and evaluate current policy to identify gaps and take steps to address this recommendation.

IPC Recommendation #28:

That QGH develop a mobile device policy for its employees, contractors and students that addresses both connecting with the Meditech system as well as the use of mobile devices brought into QGH by those individuals and utilized to collect PHI of patients. The 2003 COACH Guidelines provide an excellent set of security controls for mobile devices [p. 290]

Health Response: Health will review and evaluate current policy to identify gaps and take steps to address this recommendation.

IPC Recommendation #29:

That QGH ensure that any contracts that involve personal health information of patients of the QGH specifically identify what can and cannot be done with that PHI. All such contracts should explicitly incorporate by reference the privacy requirements imposed on any public body by ATIPPA.

Health Response:

- “Health & Medical Record “is currently in all contract details outlining the type of records and its protection. Patient Identification is also addressed, as well as the exchange of information.
- Confidentiality clauses are in all GN contracts to include Health. The Department will request a review of all contracts to ensure they reference the privacy requirements as imposed by ATIPPA.

IPC Recommendation #30:

That the QGH consider a checklist for non-consented disclosures of PHI to third parties:

- 1. Has the third party provided authority in writing of one of the 22 subsections of s. 48 of ATIPPA that might permit disclosure?*
- 2. Is there authority in one of the 22 subsections of s. 48 of ATIPPA?*
- 3. Is the request for disclosure properly documented so that the QGH has a record of the request?*
- 4. Is the purpose of the disclosure clear?*
- 5. Have steps been taken to ensure that the least amount of personal information which is necessary for that purpose is disclosed?*
- 6. Has QGH retained a record of the disclosure and relevant documentation?*

Health Response: Health agrees with this recommendation and will conduct a review and develop a checklist that can be used across the territory and with QGH.

IPC Recommendation #31:

That all staff working in Health Records, the clinics, OR and Emergency be made familiar with the two documents (Memo dated March 17, 2014 Disclosure of Personal Information to Law Enforcement and the Fact sheet: When the RCMP come to call).

Health Response: Health will implement this request.