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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;
Minister responsible for Immigration*

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Bills

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Nunavut Housing
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Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Culture and Heritage –
Consideration in Committee4168

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 15, 2013

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Honourable Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 9:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed with today's sitting, I would like to ask Mr. Elliott to lead us off in a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good morning, everyone. Good morning to our guests in the Gallery and the former mayor from Iqaluit, John Matthews. He's teaching a four-day financial management course to the students from here in Iqaluit, Baker Lake, and Pond Inlet. Welcome to our proceedings.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I seek unanimous consent of this Assembly to go directly

to Item 19 in our *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There are none. So we will move on to Item 19 in our *Orders of the Day*. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 47, 48, 49, 54, and 56 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

I would like to ask members to remain at their desks and we will go directly to Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. Good morning, colleagues. Good morning, Nunavummiut. I also say "good morning" to the students in the Gallery with us today. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>*Applause*

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 47, 48, 49, 54, and 56. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning. We wish to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the review of the following departments: Culture and Heritage, Environment, and the Legislative Assembly. We would then

wish to review the following: Bill 47, Bill 48, Bill 54, and Bill 56. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Using my discretion as the Chair, I will give (interpretation ends) Madam Premier (interpretation) an opportunity to recognize visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you very much. Good morning. I thank my colleagues for giving me the opportunity to acknowledge these students since we value our students throughout Nunavut. At this time, we have visiting students from outside of Nunavut. I will make my acknowledgement in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome 31 young musicians who are part of the YMCA Youth Exchange Program. Mr. Chairman, 16 of these young people from OrKidstra, an Ottawa music program for inner-city children, are here in Iqaluit for the first part of a musical and cultural exchange with children from Iqaluit Fiddle Club, as well as experiencing all aspects of Nunavut culture.

Tonight at 7:30 at the Nakashuk School, they will be taking part in the Eighth Annual Choral Festival Concert featuring all the Iqaluit and Apex school choirs and community choir, the fiddlers, and the closing mass choir of more than 200 singers.

Mr. Chairman, next month, Iqaluit youth fiddlers will be travelling to Ottawa, where their visit will involve a series of

workshops and rehearsals culminating in two performances with the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I want to warmly welcome our visitors to Nunavut here in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Please join me in welcoming to the Assembly these talented young people. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) Are we in agreement to continue on from where we left off yesterday with main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in Minister Taptuna and his witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Taptuna and your officials from yesterday, you may proceed. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Good morning, Minister Taptuna. For the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, committee members and colleagues. Mr. Chairman, on my right is President and CEO Alain

Barriault and on my left is Lori Kimball, Chief Financial Officer and COO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Welcome. We're on page L-3. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start my questions off on page NHC-9 of the business plan, territorial corporations, 2013-16. One of the priorities for 2013-14 is to "Develop an implementation and financial plan for the GN Comprehensive Long Term Housing Strategy, in collaboration with GN departments." I was just wondering: in terms of some of the planning that's going on with that, are some of the phases and some of the different changes as a result of the Office of the Auditor General's recommendations the last time they were here in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, if I can with your permission, I'll have the President, Mr. Alain Barriault, to respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the changes that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has made in response to the OAG performance audit of the housing corporation have been, well, to begin with, the relocation of the finance division from our Arviat

office to Iqaluit and the successful filling of a number of positions. So recruitment continues in a very successful fashion.

As well, we are proceeding, with the help of our colleagues at Community and Government Services, with the development of requests for proposals for financial management and property management software system solutions for both the Nunavut Housing Corporation and our local housing organizations. So we're making quite a bit of progress and advancement.

The finances of the housing corporation are in good order. As well, in terms of how this ties into the housing strategy, this is ongoing work with our colleagues in the Department of Finance to look for new solutions, including the involvement of the private sector, in terms of financing housing solutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns that has been brought up, actually, in all three of the communities in the High Arctic is some of the structures are very old and most of them are built along the shoreline.

One of the questions or concerns that I was hoping to find an answer for was: at what point...? I think this fits into the long-term strategy because we must have a lot of aging infrastructure across the territory. At what point do they either say that the house is not liveable anymore and then, I guess, at that point, a determination is made? So what is put into effect to decide whether the house is

still inhabitable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, Alain Barriault will respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the terms that we have used in the past has been to determine that a house is beyond economic repair, meaning that it's not economically feasible to repair it any further, that we're putting good money after bad at some point. Unfortunately, due to our very large housing shortfall, that point of no return is getting further and further away. As such, as long as it's more economical to keep repairing a home, we will keep doing so rather than paying the much higher cost of replacing it at this point.

Normally, if we had the luxury of being able to determine that houses were too old and outdated to keep, we would be doing so and replacing them, but we will only be able to really start considering that as a regular option once our housing gap is decreased much further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, in speaking to that, once it's determined that it's not economically feasible to keep the building, is the plan

or usual intent to demolish the structure and then build in the same area?

I think one of the concerns that a lot of residents in the High Arctic have is, like any other area across Canada, the waterfront area is the prime real estate because your boats and whatnot may have access to the shoreline. People are concerned with what's happening.

Once a house is no longer usable, is it the intent of the housing corporation to demolish it and then rebuild on that specific location? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, I'll have the president respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Waterfront lots are, indeed, in high demand. If we look at public housing tenants, even, who are asking for moves of convenience, many do want to access those lots where they can pull their boats right up to their houses and whatnot. In cases where the housing corporation would have to remove a house for any reason, whether it's a fire or otherwise, we will look at what our options are for best use of that lot.

As I have stated before in this House, the intention of the housing corporation under the Public Housing program is not to be building more single-family

detached houses as they are the most expensive form of housing to build, but there are options, especially under homeownership programs, whereby we could make use of these lots. These lots, in many cases, could be turned over to a homeowner at a much lower cost than new equity leases of newly developed land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, the intent is not to leave Nunavut Housing houses that are deemed unliveable to just sit for long or extended periods of time. The intent is to free those lots up either for more public housing or use by private owners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. He is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of long-term planning, one of the issues I would like to know is whether the Nunavut Housing Corporation is considering, and we would like to find out how this would affect them, the recent talks about the possibility of owning land and municipalities taking over ownership of the land and administering. I'm assuming there would be fees involved.

Right now, if their land lease is with the federal government, it's my understanding, and if there was a change in that type of a policy where municipalities actually had ownership of the parcels of land and the housing corporation was able to sell them back and forth, is this a money-making opportunity for the housing corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I understand that there is going to be a referendum on that on March 15 of 2015. Mr. Chairman, it's quite complicated. If I can, Mr. Chairman, I'll have the president respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As many of you will recall, there was a municipal land referendum that took place in March of 1995 and, if I have my dates right, that was for a 20-year period and it should be due for a new referendum in March of 2015.

The decision that was made at that time was whether or not municipalities would continue to provide land on a leasehold basis or whether they would revert to a fee simple basis whereby you have effective ownership of the land as a homeowner or as a building owner. That decision will have to be made by referendum. Again, it will be the decision of all Nunavummiut as to which direction this will go and what comes

out of that will probably be worked out between municipalities, Community and Government Services, and a number of other stakeholders.

Currently, all land is administered within municipalities by the municipalities themselves. About two years ago, all of the Commissioner's Land that was administered through Community and Government Services was transferred to municipalities for their administration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the history. My understanding is that that's what is happening. I'm saying that in terms of long-term planning, if we're planning ahead to the future and if it... . Again, I know we're dealing with an assumption, but when you're doing long-term planning, you have to deal with assumptions. If it goes either way and you don't plan both ways, then in essence, sometimes you're left high and dry.

So my thinking would be, if it does go that the municipalities become landowners, then they might be thinking that they will be able to charge land taxes and those taxes would then be passed onto the Nunavut Housing Corporation, which then would incur a huge cost, which we already have been briefed on in terms of municipalities increasing water rates across the territory, which, in turn, means the Nunavut Housing Corporation budget would increase because you're one of the biggest landlords. I guess that's what I'm trying to say.

Is there some thinking behind that as to how the housing corporation would deal with something like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, yes, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is always thinking long term. Whatever happens out there has a major impact on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's operations.

If I can with your permission, Mr. Chairman, have Mr. Barriault go into detail about the question that the committee member posed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that the housing corporation has to look at as well is the zoning of land that it's currently leasing. For example, if we did see an opportunity with land that was commercially zoned and we had the opportunity to sell it at a high return in order to purchase a larger number of residential building lots, then that's something we would definitely consider.

In terms of communities going to a tax-based system, probably Community and Government Services could explain a bit better how that process works. Iqaluit is currently the only community in Nunavut that is tax-based, whether it has to do with its city status or more

complicated details that I'm not as familiar with.

Typically, to become tax-based, you need to have a population base to be able to support that. So that's probably not a viable option for most of our communities in the short term and even in the long term, but as pricing structures change, we will work with our colleagues in all of the departments as well as the municipalities to ensure that we're properly positioned to react. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I need to ask the Minister of CGS to clarify on that because it is 2015 that it's working towards and I have faith that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to work on dealing with this issue.

At the same time, I think one of the issues in terms of long-term planning for the Nunavut Housing Corporation would be its relationship with CMHC. My understanding is that we have a stock of houses that are aging and every year, the costs to repair them are going up. At the same time, on the other side of the scale, CMHC is cutting back on its assistance with maintaining and keeping those houses liveable. I'm wondering: what are some of the possible solutions that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is working towards to correct this problem? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like Mr. Barriault to respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is true that our funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing for aging stock is decreasing year by year. As per the terms of the Social Housing Agreement and Social Housing Transfer, all jurisdictions in Canada are facing a similar issue. In their cases, public housing may make up 5 percent of their overall housing stock, not 50 percent, as is our case. We're feeling the crunch a little bit more than many of our counterparts.

We are working in terms of lobbying from a provincial and territorial perspective jointly with CMHC on this issue. As well, I will be meeting with my colleagues in Whitehorse, a tri-territorial presidents of the housing corporations', at the end of this month for some common lobbying efforts. We continue ourselves, of course, to lobby with Canada Mortgage and Housing. We have to keep working within government itself in terms of allocation of our resources, prioritizing of our funding, and finding ways to reduce costs so that our limited dollars do go further. We are approaching this from a number of different angles.

Yesterday, some of you have referred to *Igluliuqatigiilauqta*, a framework towards a housing strategy. More details will be forthcoming within the strategy itself and, more particularly, within the development of our action plan, which will be interdepartmental and involves

collaboration not just within government, but with all of our public and private partners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next I would like to move on to the administration of the Nunavut Housing Trust Program. Could the minister update the House on the delivery of the houses and whether that specific project, in terms of the administration, all the bills are paid and all the details are completed for that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Trust is drawing to its conclusion. We have a few last units that we're completing as we speak. In Arviat, there are two single family houses, one is at 95 percent completion and the other is at 70 percent, which is at the drywall stage. Grise Fiord has a duplex being completed, which is at 74 percent completion, and then in Gjoa Haven, we have a five-plex, a duplex, and one single-family house that are all at about 75 percent completion. Everything should be completed this spring.

These last few houses fall under the 80-20 rule where 20 percent of your issues take up 80 percent of your time. These were the last ones that had some complications and matters are coming to a close successfully. So we're very pleased because once these last 12 houses are completed, it will be 1,011 houses completed between the Nunavut Housing Trust and Canada's Economic Action Plan. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it true that when the Nunavut Housing Corporation is constructing a new house, they usually purchase about 20 percent over what they're buying just to make sure they have all the parts and pieces there in terms of two-by-fours, three-by-threes, or two-by-twos? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Barriault can respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you're doing material take-offs, it's common to allow for some wastage and for some additional material in case of damages in transportation. As the member is aware, if you're short on material, it's very expensive to fly it in,

so it is better to bring additional materials.

These kinds of issues are the ones that have given me quite a number of headaches over the years and that is why the housing corporation is proceeding with its new contracting in the supply, ship, and erect method whereby the contractor will be doing their own material take-offs and will be responsible for all aspects of material, supply, and handling. They have expertise in doing these types of projects. They don't necessarily have the same capacity challenges that, as government officials, we're sometimes faced with and we are transferring that responsibility to our contractors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer because one of the things that the standing committee has been asking for, for a number of years or at least since the Office of Auditor General did their report, was a complete detailed list of what materials are still in the communities from the Nunavut Housing Trust.

If the program ran for five years at 20 percent over-purchase, as Mr. Barriault said, that would be 100 percent. So in 25 communities across the territory, there should be one unit being able to be constructed with parts missing. With a price tag of \$500,000 in 25 communities, that's \$12.5 million worth of bits and pieces out there across the territory. Could the minister provide us with how much material is still out there or

provide us with a detailed accounting of what is purchased out there?

Again, I don't know, I think, in terms of the way things go up the chain in terms of reporting. We have Mr. Peterson telling us that the financial accounts are put in for the territory on time, yet we can't account for that \$12.5 million worth of merchandise. It hasn't been written off, so it's floating around there somewhere in someone's balance sheet. I don't know where that is and we haven't been directed as to where that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Barriault can respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, firstly, I did not say 20 percent. There definitely are some additional materials ordered to ensure that you have sufficient and to allow for wastage and damages, but not necessarily 20 percent.

However, I can't really comment on some of the practices of the past. This occurred while I wasn't there to oversee them and we realize that they have caused us a number of problems over the years. For some materials, we did receive more than we needed. For other materials, we received less than we needed. Again, that's part of the reason why we are going to a supply, ship, and erect method of contracting rather than us providing materials separately.

There was material leftover in all communities and, as all of the other Nunavut Housing Trust and economic action plan houses were being completed, this material was used for resupplying other materials that were damaged and short, and as well, to meet the needs of our local housing organizations. We're still in the process of doing the major clean-up as a lot of the projects are only now reaching completion. There are materials in there that are of no use to the housing corporation which we will have to dispose of. There is material which will be of very good use from a maintenance perspective for the housing corporation.

We have lots of insulation here in Iqaluit if you're looking for some. We have a variety of things in different communities. At this point, there is not sufficient material to build another house in any community. Mostly it's on the architectural side or else even on the plumbing side. We may have boxes of fittings extra and some of these things will be a lifetime supply for some of our local housing associations, so we don't want to burden them with what would effectively be dead stock taking over their limited warehouse space.

It's a long-term process to work through because it does involve taking a lot of time and as you're emptying sea cans full of material, you need somewhere to put that material and sort it. So as a pilot project, we have been emptying all of the sea cans and organizing the materials in Iqaluit in the old Iqaluit Housing Authority warehouse. We're developing a process that will then expand to all of our communities. Hopefully over the summer months, we will be able to complete most of them.

Part of what we're doing as we're identifying the stock and putting it into inventory is that the material is being costed and it is being tracked as part of our inventory system. It does remain on balance sheets and the material remains accounted for. Material was accounted for originally when it was purchased and any material that we do retain with our local housing associations are being accounted for if they're being entered into their stock inventory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing we have been told over the past is that there are about a thousand sea cans across the territory at a price of \$3,000. We were also assured that none of these sea cans are leased, so they won't be going back and they are owned by the housing corporation. We have also been assured that individuals are able to purchase them and talk to the local housing authority.

Yet, in the three communities of the High Arctic, I have a couple of schools that are in dire need of storage space and have been asking to purchase these and have been told that they're not able to. There are a couple of local businesses that would like to purchase them as well, but they have been told the same thing and also a couple of local residents who would like to use them for storage as well.

Could the minister clarify what the process is for purchasing these and maybe helping infuse \$3 million worth of money into the Nunavut Housing

Corporation's budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. As the minister responsible for the housing corporation, I do not get into that level of detail, but I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a number of members have mentioned over the years, we do have limited storage space and warehousing in our communities, and that's something that we're trying to address in the long term. In the short term, these sea cans are very good storage space for cold storage that we can use.

The first need that we're meeting in the disposition of the sea cans is our own need. We will first identify what our requirements of our local housing organizations are, and then from there, in keeping with the GN practices of surplus in materials, we will offer them to GN departments, including schools and their needs, for sale, again, and then after meeting the government's needs, they will be made available to the general public.

We will be rolling this out, as I stated in my earlier answer, as we free up the containers by emptying the material and disposing of it whether for our own use

or to the dump or for sale. As sea cans become available, we will dispose of them in that order, but please have any requests from any of your constituents directed to the Cape Dorset district office and likewise, for other members, to the regional office of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have more questions, but maybe at this time, I'll let other members ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Elliott, I wasn't paying attention. Can you repeat, please.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said that I do have more questions, but I'll let other members ask questions, and then you can get back to me after they've had a chance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. That's very kind of you. I do have quite a list and I appreciate your understanding. (interpretation) I will proceed. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On NHC-12, the second bullet on this page says, "Develop a plan to address LHO infrastructure needs. Status: In process, NHC has begun the evaluation of the infrastructure needs of LHOs across all three Districts."

For Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, the LHOs were run by the hamlet and in the last few years, they have been given

back to the local housing authorities. I have said it before that they have poor working conditions in those two communities. I would like an update on if they plan to visit the Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak local housing authorities. The need was they needed heated workplaces and workshops.

All small communities were not ready for ten or more new units in each community when all of these houses were built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member can clarify her question, is she speaking specifically about warehouses or houses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk, can you clarify your question? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing organization offices and workplaces are very small and very old. Can you look into that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) Does that clarify, Minister Taptuna?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, there is a planned assessment to be done in all communities of the offices, warehouses, and workshops. Once that assessment is done, we will try and consider or find a way to put it in the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is documented here that there are three local housing authorities. (interpretation ends) Three local housing authorities across all three districts in the Kitikmeot district, particularly Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, have the oldest shops. I would just like to stress that out. Last year, I brought up the need for heated workshops. From the sources I got, the workshops in Arctic Bay were very different from Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. I just hope they standardize what a workshop has to be for safety concerns and stuff like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the work is ongoing in assessing office space and warehousing in the communities. Once that assessment is done, we will certainly try and find a way to put it in the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since I became an MLA, I have been stressing the fact that there is a lack of housing. In Taloyoak, the teachers have a shortage of housing. The teachers are retiring and the teachers and the probation officer have a shortage of housing. Even though there is a potential for a position, they don't have housing in

Taloyoak. In Gjoa Haven, the matter is being looked into.

The fact is that there is shortage of housing for staff, especially for the education department. In Taloyoak, when GN workers have shortage of housing, it is embarrassing in a way because they have no place to live. So can you look into these issues to ensure that staff housing is available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, if I can, I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to it in detail. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is aware that there is a shortage of housing in general and staff housing as well, in particular, in a number of communities. We work with our colleagues at the Department of Human Resources in terms of identifying government priorities for recruitment and retention purposes, as the housing corporation is effectively the delivery agent, but we do work with all of our departmental colleagues to try to assess their needs and get that information and to prioritize the funding that we do obtain.

As part of this process, in fact, as you mentioned school teachers, I met on Friday of last week with all of the regional school operations staff and the

Department of Education officials discussing the very topic of staff housing supply for teachers. So we have some good communications and dialogue happening in terms of identifying where their pressures and priorities and needs are, and we're all committed to working together to find solutions for this critical need. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Moving on. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have a question related to what Mr. Curley was speaking to yesterday about private homeowners. Homeowners have provided a lot of assistance and we know this. As an example, they have probably provided more assistance than CMHC here in Nunavut. Private homeowners assist people without houses as well as those people awaiting units. Back in the day, perhaps about 20 years ago, private homeownership was less stressful since the cost of living was bearable.

This clock is fast.

Now, I have heard that if I were to have a private home or Mr. Chairman, if you owned a home, then this home either you or I own would be (interpretation ends) equal to two public units. (interpretation) That is the approximation given to these homes owned privately. Is there any consideration given to this value of private homes?

I believe the benefit private homeowners provide is already well known. They really assist the housing associations as well as the housing corporation, especially in assisting homeless people where these homes become

overcrowded. This matter (interpretation ends) on a serious note (interpretation) requires that we look at providing assistance to the homeowners. Will this be taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, through this program, we do our best to assist people out there who put in applications.

Mr. Chairman, last year, there were 29 new homeowners who were approved either to buy or build their home through our homeownership assistance programs. There were 94 homeowners needing oil tank replacements. We do try and assist with the budget allocated to us and, for the most part, there are quite a number of people who are assisted in this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Past homeowners from the original homeownership programs, perhaps 20 or 30 years ago, face extremely high maintenance costs for their homes today and more homeowners are starting to sell their homes. Sometimes homeowners have no option but to lease or even sell their homes to contractors working in their communities. I believe this to be the case, although I can't provide proof this is happening. That seems to be the case, even with our severe housing shortage in Nunavut.

Does the Nunavut Housing Corporation occasionally purchase private homes from their owners and convert them into public housing units?

When the homeowner is deluged by bills and overwhelmed, this is entirely understandable, especially when the homeowner previously held a job and has retired. This is also the case for homeowners with jobs who face difficulty with their various bills due to the continual rise in the cost of living index, especially here in Nunavut.

Does the Nunavut Housing Corporation periodically purchase private homes from their owners to accommodate the need for public housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Mr. Chairman, I know that in the past, there were more people who were assisted in the early days, but as the cost of living went up, so did the cost of owning a home. Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of variables and factors that create some of these situations where homeowners have to eventually sell their homes or board them up. There are a number of reasons for that and in most cases, it's usually because the homeowner has lost a job or moved to a different location or elsewhere. In the past, we have purchased at times from the homeowners who were assisted through the housing corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you. This question will likely be my last as my colleagues have questions also and I want them to have the opportunity to do so, obviously.

With respect to the first issue I spoke to, the minister is aware, as are most of the people here, of the extreme high costs which seem to be getting higher still. At the time when this government has begun working on the Poverty Reduction Strategy, this is to try to reduce the amount of poverty faced by our people and for that, I thank the government. This is good news.

I certainly hope that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will prepare a plan for private homeowners in the future to set out a fund in the new budget for consideration of this initiative. Our private homeowners provide a lot of assistance to their communities. As per my previous comments, I believe they provide more assistance than even the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation when it comes to homeownership.

I would like the corporation to deliberate on this matter and to consider our private homeowners. Will the corporation take this idea into consideration? Since the homeowners are essential and alleviate our housing shortage, will we be looking at assisting them in the future or even now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, our annual budget for assisting homeowners is

approximately \$4 million per year and that's done through criteria and application process, and yes, Mr. Chairman, we do our best to assist. Last year, I believe there were 280 applications that came through to the Nunavut Housing Corporation for assistance.

As the member is well aware, we reviewed the rent scale and made some changes to the rent scale to enable some of these younger people to be able to save money and enable them to eventually purchase a home. Mr. Chairman, with the budget allocated to us, it is very difficult sometimes and at the housing corporation, we do our best to assist as many as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. At this time, we have Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions related to rent collections. Before I do, I would just like to state that I think TROs in our communities have one of the toughest jobs in Nunavut. Collecting rent from people when they're trying to feed their families is no easy task.

I'm looking at the tabled document, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual report for 2011-12. On page 19, there is a comparison chart between 2010-11 and 2011-12 and it shows that a number of communities showed a significant increase in the amount of rents collected from one year to the next. I'm just wondering: is there any particular reason why some communities are collecting more rent? Is it a directive from the housing corporation or is it just LHOs

putting more effort into collecting rent?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan)
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.
Rumbolt. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I thank the committee
member for that question. Mr. Chairman,
the Nunavut Housing Corporation has
been assisting the LHOs in collecting
arrears and some communities have
improved. I believe that in the past year,
the collection rate went up from 80
percent to 84 percent. As time continues,
with more training and ability for the
tenant relations officers to speak to
people and find ways or a process to
collect rental arrears, that is improving
year to year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Minister Taptuna. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. As I stated, that report is for
2011-12 and it showed that the amount
of collections went up. Can we expect a
similar trend for this year? Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt.
Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I thank the member for that
question. Mr. Chairman, with a small
population, the variables go up and
down. It does make a big impact if we
lose 150 jobs in the Kitikmeot, as we did
last year when the Hope Bay operations
went down. That impacted rent
collection, as would any small
population like that. Hopefully the
economy will improve. Once that

improves, we usually see an increase in
rental arrears collected. Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Minister Taptuna. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I wonder if the minister can
update us today on how many dollars are
owed to the Nunavut Housing
Corporation in rental arrears to date.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. In the fiscal year 2012,
arrears amounted to \$20,955,000. Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Minister Taptuna. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. Are these rental arrears still
increasing or are we seeing a decrease in
the total amount that is owed to the
housing corporation? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I thank the member for that
question. Mr. Chairman, with your
permission, I would like to have Ms.
Kimball respond to that question in
detail. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Minister Taptuna. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the completion of the NHT and CEAP units, the amount of rent that is being assessed has increased. The arrears have increased, but as a percentage of the rent being assessed, the arrears are either staying the same or going down. We won't have the final number, though, until the audit occurs and things can surface in the audit. First, what we get is internal reporting unaudited. So I can't say with certainty, but from what we're seeing, I would expect it to stay the same as a percentage or increase as a percentage collection.

We are taking a number of initiatives to improve the rent scale. With changes to the rent scale and only assessing primary tenants, we are hoping that will improve the collectability of the rents. As well, we have a first draft of collection policy being developed. It's now being circulated amongst NHC and will soon be circulated amongst LHOs for their feedback.

That will hopefully give more structure and support for the TROs because I do agree that that is one of the hardest jobs out there. We're trying to make sure that we're taking some of the harder elements of that role and standardizing it so that the TROs can't be held personally accountable. We're taking some of that out of their hands to make it easier for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the new changes coming to the rent scale program and you mentioned that most people's rent

will probably decrease, has your department considered the financial impact that will have on the housing corporation's budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. The decrease in the rental collection is approximately \$2 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the decrease by \$2 million, how is that going to affect your budgeting process for the year? Does the housing corporation have enough funds to cover these kinds of expenses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. Mr. Chairman, it's one of those investments we made in people. We decided that as a government. We want to see the \$36 million in income support that does leave the government coffers for income support decrease in a year or two and enable our people in public housing to taking the distance and send them out for them to go out and get work.

Usually, in most cases, you have heard for a long time that there are a lot of people out there who do want to work and once they get employment and

assessed for rent, they usually resign from their position because the amount of rent goes from zero or from \$60 a month to a certain number after. Gaining employment has been a major deterrent for folks out there to seek permanent employment.

Hopefully with this investment the government has made, we will see the number of income support go down and enable some of the younger people to actually save money and eventually purchase a home. As the member is well aware, in the housing corporation, this is exactly what we're trying to do, enable people out there through the investment that the government has decided to make, and hopefully we will see the results in a year or two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I think we have some refreshments, so if we can take a 15-minute break. We will be coming right back to the House at 10:16 or thereabouts. At this time, I think the members wish to stand up and take a break. Once we come back, we will have Mr. Curley ask questions. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 10:04 and resumed 10:23

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can continue from where we left off before the break. At this time, I have Mr. Curley. Go ahead.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask several questions, specifically on three issues.

The first question relates to a question my colleague asked regarding buildings

and write-offs of certain facilities that the finance minister spoke about during our committee meeting. These facilities no longer have any economic value, so they are written off the books.

This matter we spoke about which I want communicated to the Nunavut Housing Corporation is not to prioritize the economic value, but to focus on public health and safety. This has to be one of the priorities. If you don't pay attention to public health and safety with these dilapidated buildings, they can still retain some economic value.

(interpretation ends) My question is this: are public health and safety issues part of the evaluations that are normally applied when dealing with whether or not the units are habitable for the public? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, when we talk about economic viability of the units, it includes health-related and safety factors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. How often do the units include public health inspections? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, with your

permission, I would like Mr. Barriault to respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of our public housing and all of our owned housing are inspected through a condition rating, which is a top to bottom assessment of the unit, at least every two years. This is done with the support of our local housing organizations. As well, these inspections do take place whenever a tenant has checked in and whenever a tenant has checked out. There are opportunities for our local housing associations to enter the units to perform work orders on a fairly regular basis in most of our houses.

As well, we encourage all of our tenants, if they have issues of concern particularly related to health and safety, to bring it to the immediate attention of their local housing organization so that a work order can be issued or an assessment can be done of the safety of the house for the tenants to continue living in them.

Whether it's economically feasible to repair the house or not, part of the assessment is to bring the house into a safe and healthy condition. At that point, if we feel that it's not, then the unit would have to be vacated and we would have to deal with the unit either through planning retrofits at a later stage once we identify some funding or else in the writing-off of the house. As I mentioned earlier, writing-off of houses seldom happens because we need every house

that we can get. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. I noted that there are units that are out there, even in my constituency. A couple of times, I've had constituents and one was about a year ago, a young lady with a whole slew of kids who was assigned to a unit that is so mouldy that that mould is evident not only on site, but you can smell it. That has been an ongoing issue with some of the families who are put in temporarily while their units are being built or retrofitted, that they would be checked into those units and they're mouldy. My response to them was that it's almost impossible to get the Nunavut Housing Corporation to inspect these units. I don't think they have ever been inspected because they're still occupied.

As early as six months ago, again the constituent was checked into that unit for awhile and her kids were sick every day because of the smell and everything mouldy. I know that even here in Iqaluit, the insurance companies won't allow that kind of unit to be occupied because they could be hugely liable for that. How can the minister improve inspections for units that may be economical, economically viable, but not public health and safety conditions that had normally been accorded to residents? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee member for that question. Yes, we

encourage all tenants to notify us immediately if they're having some difficulties in getting assistance. Over the last several months, any difficulties that have been brought to our attention have been dealt with immediately.

If I can, Mr. Chairman, I'll have Mr. Barriault elaborate more in detail. I do understand that there are some communities that are trained in dealing with mould and, when it comes to retrofitting, they have this training to deal with certain types of mould. If I can, Mr. Chairman, have Mr. Barriault respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mould can occur in houses for a number of different reasons, some of them are lifestyle and some of them are problems with the house itself, whether it's in the design of the house, lack of ventilation, plumbing leaks, and other causes. It's sometimes not easy to determine the exact source of the mould and someone has to investigate that.

We don't want tenants to take it on themselves, necessarily, to try to find the problem and rectify them because there are dangers inherent with mould. You don't want to be breathing mould spores; they can make you sick, depending on the type of mould and your exposure. People who do the mould remediation cleaning need to know how to do it safely.

We have the new Occupational Health and Safety Manual for the housing corporation that we're rolling out. We have been developing it in conjunction

with WSCC. Part of the processes we're looking at within that is safe work procedures for our local housing organizations for getting rid of mould. The Arviat Housing Association has two or three certified workers in mould remediation. They have taken some courses and obtained the training. We do have some expertise in that area.

So more than anything, what I would like to urge all of our tenants is bring this to the attention of your local housing organization. If you're not satisfied that the problem has been dealt with adequately, bring it to the attention of your district office of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and then it will be followed up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I think that's helpful to know and to understand, but I also would probably ask: why not directly to the public health officials? Is that part of the options that are possible? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been briefed on a couple of cases where the public health and safety officer has been called in to some units to check for some certain health problems that the tenants had raised, but they are involved when it comes to that point.

In the short past here where mould has occurred, there are some tenants who are actually shutting off air circulating equipment for their units and a lot of

humidity in these homes, whether it is summer or wintertime, has exacerbated the growth of mould in some of these units that are pretty well airtight. I have indicated in the House before that most of these new units do have air circulating equipment that's got to be constantly on to make sure that mould doesn't grow in the units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I appreciate those. I think we need to step up the public health and safety matters. It should be an integral part of the whole housing occupancy and administration.

I would like to move on to another section. Maybe first of all, if the minister could indicate to the committee exactly what you expect or project the municipal services cost that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is facing, particularly with respect to water rates and expenses for the coming year. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It's one of the bigger costs when it comes to water for our Nunavut Housing Corporation units. Mr. Chairman, the officials with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and CGS are working closely to alleviate the cost. As the members are well aware, per unit, it does cost the housing corporation \$23,000 just for services.

If I can, Mr. Chairman, I would like Mr. Barriault to elaborate a little more in

detail on this question that the member brings up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our budget for 2013-14 for water is projected to be in the area of \$36 million, so it is our largest cost. We're paying more for water. We're actually paying double for water than what we're paying for the heating of our houses. So it is very much a large cost and a big pressure on NHC and as a result, a pressure on the GN as a whole.

The water rates are set according to agreements, formulas, and criteria that are defined in the CGS municipality water services agreement and as well, following the CGS Water and Sewer Policy. We are in discussions right now with CGS in terms of reviewing what those policies and those rate structures are, as they do impact directly on the finances and the spending ability, of course, of the housing corporation and subsequently of the GN. So it's a very big concern for us and we're trying to find ways of reducing those costs, if at all possible. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. Has the minister got figures for the cost of fuel for maintaining public housing with the same number of units that we are paying \$36 million for public housing? Have you got estimates for the fuel costs? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, we do have figures on the estimated costs. It's \$17,621,000. Mr. Chairman, also for power, it's a little over \$24 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. So water rates are pretty much double the cost of fuel. That's amazing. Do you go by multi-year agreements with municipalities or are they just subject to one-year deals and whatnot with respect to water rates? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can have Mr. Barriault respond to that question, as there are a lot of variables within that, so if I can, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NHC is a client of the municipalities when it comes to water supply or water services. As such, we are subject to increases as they are approved by municipal by-laws. So as such, we're not in any kind of agreement that has any time period on it. We are a client like any other client.

So when a municipality decides to increase their rates, we just get notice that the rate has increased and then we have to react accordingly, typically through requests for supplementary

appropriations. A 1 cent per litre increase in a medium-size community will result in about a \$2 million a year cost increase to the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

It's important to note as well that even though all our units are subsidized public housing rental units, we are paying the full economic rate, which is the highest rate available. In many cases, it is higher than even the commercial rates that are charged. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government may eventually have to put municipal water rates through the regulatory process like we do with the other utilities like electrical power and so on. Is that something that the housing corporation may be looking at? If not, what kind of agreement do you think the housing corporation would likely get from municipal organizations? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working closely with CGS. As you know, some of these rates in certain communities vary and some of them are not sustainable. We are working closely with CGS to find a solution with municipalities and partners that are involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I would like to move on. We wish you all the best because I think it's something that needs to be addressed and we will continue to monitor that during the life of this Assembly.

I would like to move on to another one. My colleague next to me on my right was alluding to the disposal of certain assets from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I wasn't really clear exactly what the disposal procedures are, for instance, for sea cans and other equipment.

Could the minister indicate to the House as to what the process is for disposing of either surplus materials or sea cans or any other properties that the housing corporation has purchased? For instance, with the material handling units, it was decided ahead of time before the policy was stated that they would be assigned to local housing associations. How exactly does your disposal policy work? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, if I can have the president respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation effectively follows the same disposal policy as any other GN department. We are bound by the Financial Administration Manual and

Financial Administration Act, and we do dispose of our assets in that manner. As such, we will make the best use of any of our assets internally and then subsequent to that, if we have no further use, it is offered to other GN departments. After that, should no other departments or GN entities be interested in those surplus assets, that's when we make them available to the public. So that is the process that we are following, whether there are sea cans or any other assets of the government.

In terms of the telehandlers or telescopic forklifts, those are a very useful tool and most construction companies anywhere in the world have them as a primary tool that they use. It's very practical. It's one of the best tools you can have. You can use it for replacing windows, for example, with platforms on there without having to put up scaffolding. So there are many uses for that and we consider it a valuable tool, the same as having circular saws, hammers, and everything else. It's one of the assets of our local housing organizations. It's a tool that we intend to keep using and we intend to ensure that our staff, of course, is properly trained in the safe use of that, same as we would with any of our other tools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. That's useful. One other question is: when disposing certain types of assets that the president indicated, how is the value of the property to be disposed of arrived at? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We basically sell it for what the going market value is, so we're trying to get the best return that we can on those assets.

In some cases, for example, we are setting a fixed price for the sea cans because we know the price they're currently selling at within other private owners of sea containers in a community. So we have been asking for a \$3,000 value on those, but we also recognize that some are in worse shape than others and as such, the value we will be looking for will be less. Again, if no one is purchasing at that price, then we have to reconsider what our asking price is on it. It's the same as any other seller of products in the market.

Of course, we will try to recover as much as we can, and then that is funding that is available within the housing corporation for its purposes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Like I said earlier, for instance, some of these material handlers were sort of prearranged, that they would be transferred to local housing associations. I don't know how that was determined because the disposal procedures, I think,

indicate that, like you say, there has to be market value, but it's very clear in the disposal policy that there should be an appraisal done. How do you determine whether to go through an independent appraisal or are you going directly with your chief financial officers where "It costs this much. We will just take out some of the depreciation costs." When you transfer it to locals, is that just a transfer? They're not buying it. Am I correct in that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Barriault can respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a point of clarification, all of the assets of the local housing organizations are, in fact, not owned by them; they are owned by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. As such, we are making these assets available for their use as per our management agreement. There is no actual transferring of ownership. We continue to own all the assets, the pickup trucks, the nails on the shelf, and all of their stock in warehouses. The houses are owned by the housing corporation and, in turn, by the Government of Nunavut. There is no transfer of ownership. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the only surplus policy that I can dig out from the government is this current one,

the Surplus Disposal Policy, Part A (Fixed Assets). Do you abide by this policy? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do abide by the GN's Fixed Asset Disposal Policy. In the case of the telehandlers, those would be considered non-fixed capital assets. There is a set of Financial Administration Manual directives that apply to those and we do follow those. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. When considering disposal of assets, whether they be fixed assets or other, has public participation ever been considered whether or not they have some interest or is that option not available through the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can, I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you buy a new car and drive it off the lot, it depreciates as soon as you pull onto the road, it would appear. It's the same with any other asset. They do have depreciated values.

When we look at the surplusing of GN assets, the best use, of course, and the best return on our dollars is to see if any other government entity has use of that asset. The first step in the surplusing of government assets is to see if any of our colleagues have use of that asset first. From there, it is made available to the general public. Whether that is businesses or private citizens, their interests are then addressed through the public disposal process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. With respect to the sea cans, which policy applies for disposing of these properties? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policies would fit under non-fixed assets, so thereby through FAM directives and manual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Having heard that, does that also include consideration

for public participation or not? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that in detail.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we dispose of the sea containers, we will only dispose of the ones that we don't need. The first step in the disposal of any that we deem to be surplus to our needs will be to offer them first to other government entities. Afterwards, they will be made available to the public. By that, I mean everyone will have a fair and equal chance to access them. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. It's a significant amount that's lingering around Nunavut throughout these last few years. You can also go to my constituency at that point where some were quite close to Inuit owned land. I think some of them are on Inuit owned land. There's quite a lot of pile of units out there.

Have you determined how many the Nunavut Housing Corporation has any use for and how many are not considered will be used by the Nunavut Housing Corporation and thereby, they would be disposed of in my view? Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I noted earlier, the process we're going through right now is identifying the material that is in some of these sea cans and identifying what the needs are of our LHOs so that we ensure to keep sufficient sea containers for their storage purposes. From there, as they become surplus to our needs, we're making them available to government, and then from there, they will be made available to the general public. It will not be all sea cans declared surplus all at once. For example, we may use it for temporary storage and as it becomes surplus, then we will dispose of it. This will be an ongoing process and we want to make sure that it is structured and that it makes sense.

We will be working and continue working with our housing organizations to ensure that their storage needs are met, and then from there, we will proceed as I described earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Curley, your time is up. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to homeownership as well as fuel tank inspections and replacements on NHC-14, the second bullet indicates that "To assist and

support Nunavummiut to purchase, build, renovate, repair and maintain their homes.”

Mr. Chairman, as well, on NHC-15, it indicates that “The Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program (HOTRP) assists homeowners to replace their home heating oil tank in the form of a grant of up to \$5,000.”

As well, the 2011-14 NHC business plan indicates that one of the priorities is to “Monitor issues of environmental liability due to aging oil tanks throughout Nunavut. If necessary, continue to support the oil tank replacement program, which prioritizes the replacement of oil tanks of senior and vulnerable homeowners.” Your 2013-16 plan does not list this issue as a priority. Is your corporation still committed to the environmental liability that aging oil tanks pose to Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, we do monitor that. It is a five-year program and we make efforts to improve it as time goes along. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, how many applicants receive funding in the 2012-13 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Mr. Chairman, can the member repeat that question? The fault was in the audio system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking for an update as to how many applicants received funding in the 2012-13 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The number of applicants was 94. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Nunavut Housing Corporation should also take the issue of chimneys into consideration. As we all know the by-product of home fuel heated by furnace, residue in chimneys is also a concern, as old chimneys and non-maintained chimneys are extremely hazardous. One of the by-products as well is carbon monoxide, which is a colourless, odourless, and tasteless gas.

Has the Nunavut Housing Corporation monitored all of their new homes and public housing whether or not homes have carbon monoxide detectors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like Mr. Barriault to respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any new homes that are being built by the Nunavut Housing Corporation are conforming to the National Building Code of Canada. Since the 2005 code, these carbon monoxide detectors have been a requirement and they have been put in place.

The codes are not typically retroactive unless they are life safety and typically there is an issuance from the authority having jurisdiction over the building code. The Nunavut Housing Corporation, though, is being proactive with all of its public housing and we have been going through the process of adding carbon monoxide detectors in all of our public housing units. Many communities have been fully completed already and the remainder will be completed this summer. We will have carbon monoxide detectors in all public housing units whether code requirement or not.

In terms of homeowners, if they have concerns, I would advise homeowners to purchase carbon monoxide detectors themselves. They are available as a plug-in unit to plug it directly into a receptacle. It's not necessarily the ideal

location. Usually, you want them in the higher level in the house, but it does give you one level of protection. As well, if homeowners have concerns, we do have our Home Repair Program which addresses all components of the house, including chimneys and whatnot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finally, I would like to add that older units' chimneys should also be considered to ensure that LHOs and NHC have adequate chimneys to be able to ensure sure that the exhaust is leaving the home in order to lower the chances of having CO₂. Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I don't think there were any questions. I want you to know that most of you have spoken two times since yesterday. There are two more people. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation for 2013-16, one of the priorities for 2013-14 is to "Continue to work with the Department of Culture and Heritage to implement the Inuit Language Protection Act (ILPA) and Official Languages Protection Act (OLA)." I think that's a very good priority to work towards and I hope that that priority, I think, goes out to some outreach, maybe, for elders in understanding policy and how policies are made. Recently, with some activities that have gone in the High Arctic, I think a lot of elders are sitting and wondering what's actually going on or how they

can be part of the process. It's on NHC-9 of the business plan. It's the second last priority for 2013-14.

What has happened to a couple of our elders, in terms of the policy within the Nunavut Housing Corporation and local housing authorities, is the number of individuals living in the house. On paper, it may look like two elders and maybe a grandchild who has been adopted, but in reality, it's actually a visiting place over the weekends for all the family to come. As Member Ugyuk talked about some family members, where you are a grandmother or a grandfather or a great-grandmother or a great-grandfather to 50 or 60 children, you could have a lot of people passing through your house at different times.

What has happened recently in one of the communities I represent is that two individuals or two elder couples were put into smaller houses, which is following the policy to the tee on paper. But in reality, to the policy applying in the community and the reality of what and how the house is actually used, it's a terrible burden on the families as a visiting place for the family to get together and meet.

When I met with the elders and they brought their concern to me, I said I would bring it forward in the House to let the policy makers know, but I also mentioned that this is where I think both unilingual Inuktitut-speaking individuals and family members might... . What I had said was and what I figured they could do is go to the housing association as well and plead their case, which I don't think they really knew they had that option to do.

In terms of asking the question, if the policy says that it goes by the number of people in the house and you have an elderly couple who is in this type of a situation, are they able to go to the housing association or local housing authority? Supposedly, they do have decision-making abilities, but sometimes we find out that Cape Dorset or the regional housing corporation will trump their decisions. Can they plead their case? That's my first question. Can they go there and plead their case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think a few different topics were covered in that question.

First of all, from the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, we do have a committee for the implementation where we work with Culture and Heritage to ensure that we have consistent approaches and the best impact in terms of implementing our requirements under these Acts. We have representation from all of the housing corporation offices. We also have received some funding to implement these Acts to make sure that we are compliant with them in all of our LHOs.

Our local housing organizations, meanwhile, at last count, 88 percent of all employees were Inuit. As such, there are Inuit language services available at all of our local housing organizations for our tenants. As such, if we have a unilingual tenant, they can still get a full range of services locally.

In terms of a situation referred to with the elders who would like to have additional rooms for visitors, we do have limited stock. In terms of our funding, we had agreed with Canada Mortgage and Housing to allocate as per the national occupancy standards. In many cases, elders and others have been relocated to other houses that are more appropriate to the size of their current family. I guess the question keeps coming back: do we try to meet people's day-to-day needs or do we want to provide additional bedrooms and whatnot for visitors?

We do understand that the people wish they had that additional space to accommodate visitors, but we also have such a shortage of housing that we have to make the best use of our existing housing portfolio and reallocate so that families have the additional bedrooms for their children rather than allocating additional bedrooms for the purpose of visitors. It's a hard choice that we have to make, but we do have to look out for the overall needs of the entire community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If an elder goes to the local housing authority, requests and pleads their case, and the local housing authority decides

as a board of directors that they will let the individual stay in that house, will that decision be honoured by the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, it would depend on the circumstances and availability of some of these things within the community. The housing corporation tries to accommodate everybody, but as the president has just indicated, it's very difficult. We do our best and, for the elders, it is a difficult situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We are on page L-3. I don't think I have any more names on my list. I'm sorry. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We appreciate that Nunavummiut are provided with local housing and assistance with homeownership. It's very expensive for homeowners if their homes catch on fire. Gas, food, and other expenses are very expensive as well. Looking at homeownership, we know that some homeowners can't keep up with the expenses due to hardship and they have to move to their relatives or their children who are in local housing or own their homes. They have to wait so long to get housing.

I know that people who don't want to live in their own homes anymore have lived in tents outside. They have to move into their families, even when they are

adults, and they move their young children. This is quite a problem because there are people who want homeownership and there are assistance programs available, but when they don't want to own their homes anymore, how can the local housing association provide assistance? This has happened in Gjoa Haven and I would like to know what programs you have for those people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, through the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we do have a program, the Home Renovation Program, which assists very generously up to \$65,000.

In some cases, I know that most homeowners are required to have insurance. That will help the family out a lot. Just like anywhere else, when a house is damaged beyond repair, the homeowners do have to find a place to stay and it becomes a very difficult situation, but with proper insurance, the homeowners are able to get back on their feet with renovations and possibly even replacement of their units.

I encourage everyone to get fire damage insurance. Any type of insurance would be most beneficial for homeowners.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have all of these programs for

homeownership, down payment, and renovations, but we know that we have some previous homeowners who have moved out of their units because they are unable to keep up payments for water, sewage, power bills, fuel, and then they move out of the access units or HAP units and then they move to their adult children. Some of them moved to cabins. Some of them moved to their young adult children. My question is: can they be allowed to move on top of the list for local housing when they apply for a house? Can they be moved to the top of the list? It creates overcrowding and stuff like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like Mr. Barriault to respond to that in detail as there are a lot of variables to get it to that point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the homeowner has a mortgage that is held by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, one option is to do what is called a quitclaim where they turn the ownership back to the housing corporation and it gets turned into a public housing unit and then they are allocated somewhere to live within the public housing stock.

The first thing the Nunavut Housing Corporation would do is to counsel that client or homeowner to look for different options so that the homeowner can

continue keeping their home. Sometimes that's financial management advice and sometimes that's advice on how to obtain repair assistance, for example. There are a number of different factors and we do provide that counselling as a first step and then try to find ways for the homeowner to remain a homeowner. Failing that, if it's a mortgage held by the housing corporation there is the option to do a quitclaim where the ownership is transferred.

In terms of homeowners who don't have a housing corporation mortgage, to put them at the top of the waiting list would really not be fair to those who, in many cases, have been living in overcrowded situations for a number of years and have been patiently waiting for their turn on the waiting list. Some would state in some cases that it would be rather unfair as they've had an opportunity of homeownership and they're now somewhat jumping the cue or jumping to the front of line. Their application would be considered the same as anybody else's within the public housing waiting list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If they do counselling, if they have a mortgage with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, how much counselling did they do last year and the year before? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Peterson. Minister Taptuna.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community development officers in the programs area in each of our three district offices have training themselves or a background whereby they can provide that counselling. They will only provide counselling, of course, to homeowners at the homeowner's request. So if they're having issues in terms of being able to maintain their homeownership abilities, then they're encouraged to contact the district offices either in Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, or Arviat. Actually, they can also make contact through the local housing organizations such that when the program officer is next in their community, they can make an appointment and have a discussion and obtain some counselling or some information to help them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. We're on page L-3. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$165,819,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we agreed that we have concluded the review of the main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna, now that we have concluded with the review of the housing corporation, I would like to ask if you have any closing remarks.
Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee members for their scrutiny, comments, and questions.

I would also like to thank my colleagues and my staff here both at headquarters, district regional offices, and at the local level, the LHOs. They do a lot of work for the people in Nunavut and it's a very difficult task. It is demanding. As the committee member indicated, the tenant relations officers probably have the toughest job in Nunavut when they're dealing with these types of situations.

Mr. Chairman, the housing corporation is on its way. We're looking at options to improve our services to Nunavummiut and it is a difficult task, but with your help, we will do our best to make sure that these folks who are out there are housed. We will do our best. We do need a lot of partnerships to deliver the housing programs; the Public Housing program.

I thank the committee members for their time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I also thank your officials. Before we proceed, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

We will now deal with the Department of Culture and Heritage. I would like to ask the Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak, to go to the witness

table to make his opening remarks. Minister Arreak, you may begin whenever you're ready.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Department of Culture and Heritage's 2013-14 O&M budget. The proposed departmental budget for 2013-14 is \$25,786,000.

This department holds the leadership role within the Government of Nunavut for the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, one of the top priorities of my department is to promote and coordinate the implementation of our language legislation by GN departments and public agencies.

You will recall that on October 30, 2012, I tabled the Uqausivut Plan pursuant to the *Official Language Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. While extensive consultations took place with Nunavummiut, we also worked extensively with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated under the guidance of the Languages Commissioner in drafting the final version of the plan.

Using the Uqausivut Plan as a roadmap and through collaboration with GN departments and public agencies, the Department of Culture and Heritage identified areas where additional support

is required to improve compliance with the language legislation.

Subject to the Legislative Assembly appropriation for fiscal year 2013-14, the Department of Culture and Heritage is asking for \$5 million per year to assist departments and public agencies in meeting their Inuit language obligations under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the soon to be coming into force of the *Official Languages Act*.

Mr. Chairman, some of the departmental Inuit language initiatives that will be funded include providing supports through the appropriate departments to municipalities and businesses. The fund will also support initiatives to promote the use of Inuktitut as a language of work in government; enhanced language training for public servants, particularly for those who have Inuktitut as their first language; enhanced training for interpreters and translators; boost legal translation and terminology; and improved government communications and services to the public, particularly in the area of health.

Mr. Chairman, the importance of the Government of Nunavut in meeting its obligations under the language legislation cannot be overstated. As a result, my department will centrally administer these funds to ensure departments and public agencies effectively deliver programs and services in the Inuit language. This approach will also help me in my role of Minister of Languages in monitoring and reporting annually to the Legislative Assembly on results achieved by departments and public agencies in meeting their Inuit language obligations.

In 2013-14, the Department of Culture and Heritage will continue to expand its translation services and quality control in the Inuit language with five new positions. The department will further provide and administer grants and contributions to support more Inuit language initiatives at the community level, including publications and other media.

The Toponymy program is continuing its due diligence in both assisting the process and formalizing traditional geographic names. The Department of Culture and Heritage receives a constant stream of names for official recognition. The department is currently processing a total of 2,350 traditional geographic name proposals from four individual submissions from heritage societies, including Inuit Heritage Trust and one university academic from Alberta. Our priority for 2013-14 is to process the backlog of outside submissions to fulfill the government's commitment for strong representation of traditional geographic names on territorial and national maps.

The Department of Culture and Heritage administers all archaeology and palaeontology research in Nunavut. For the 2013 field season, we anticipate approximately 30 applications with the majority being related to resource development and impact assessments. All permit applicants are encouraged to provide training and employment opportunities for Nunavummiut.

The Department of Culture and Heritage continues to collect oral history and historical site mapping with the help of youth and elder committees.

Nunavummiut are concerned they are losing their elders, who have extensive traditional knowledge of our history, culture, traditional values and language. In advance, the Department of Culture and Heritage has been hiring locally-based interviewers in each community to record and transcribe oral histories.

The Department of Culture and Heritage will continue to persist in working to implement the recommendations in the Promoting Elders Needs Strategy.

Both elders and youth participate in family relations and genealogy so that the kinship terms and knowledge of family kinships can be inherited by youth.

As part of the Promoting Elders Needs Strategy implementation, the Department of Culture and Heritage has started documenting and collecting traditional caribou clothing and pattern making. Women still possess the skills that need to be passed on to the younger generation.

In addition, the Department of Culture and Heritage supports elders in empowering them with traditions that they have identified as mandatory to preserve and promote culture and tradition of Inuit ways. Elder lectures in communities are important and need to be brought back, as elders indicated that this is no longer being practised.

The Inuit Language Authority will be focusing on a number of long- and short-term projects this fiscal year, including a number of projects to publish Inuktitut language material.

This year, the Inuit Language Authority plans to publish two of four books on traditional terms for the *Qamutiik* and *Igluvigaq*. The next two books planned for publication will be on traditional terms for the *Qulliq* and *Qammaq*. These books will be distributed to all Nunavut communities.

Inuit Language Authority staff is also continuing to work on an online terminology database. This online database is an ongoing, living database which the Inuit Language Authority will continue to add to and improve as it evolves.

The Inuit Language Authority is planning to publish Inuktitut names of the months this year which will include traditional names of the months from all communities and regions of Nunavut. This list has already been compiled but still needs approval from the Inuit Language Authority Board to be published.

The Inuit Language Authority staff, under the direction from the Orthography Committee, is currently working on descriptive grammar books that will be useful for Inuit language curriculum development in Nunavut as resource material for Inuit language specialists and interpreter/translators.

The Department of Culture and Heritage takes the lead on coordinating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal value approaches and advice across the government. The Department of Culture and Heritage also provides administrative support to the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to restate that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit* were recently appointed for the next three-year term. Let us use their wealth of knowledge and expertise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, Ms. Ugyuk, if you have opening comments, you may immediately proceed.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to deliver the standing committee's opening comments as we begin consideration of the 2013-14 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The Department of Culture and Heritage is proposing a budget of \$25,786,000 million for 2013-14, which is over \$7 million more than the department's restated budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The standing committee notes that with the transfer of the sport and recreation programs to the Department of Community and Government Services and the transfer of the Piqqusilirivvik Cultural Centre to Nunavut Arctic College, the department will be better placed to concentrate its efforts on many cultural and heritage initiatives and, with the coming into force of Nunavut's *Official Languages Act*, engage in a renewed focus on language initiatives and the comprehensive implementation of Nunavut's language legislation.

Mr. Chairman, with the removal of the proposed Nunavut Heritage Centre from the government's capital plan, members urge the minister and his officials to give full consideration to developing options to repatriate Nunavut's cultural artefacts from other jurisdictions. The Government of the Northwest Territories currently houses a large Nunavut collection at great cost and there is increased pressure from within that territory to no longer provide us with this service as their own collection grows and requires the space.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the department has a number of programs, initiatives, and services to support Nunavut's elders. However, members remain concerned that the issues of elder abuse and support for elders are not being given adequate attention. Members encourage the minister to work with his counterparts in the departments of Justice, Health, and Family Services to ensure that Nunavut's elders are adequately protected and supported.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Culture and Heritage will continue to distribute a significant amount of funding in grants and contributions. The standing committee recommends that programs which receive funding through this process are evaluated on a regular basis. Committee members continue to stress the importance of ensuring that the process for distributing public funds for community or group-based initiatives be seen as a fair one. The committee recommends that greater efforts are made to assist communities and groups in the funding application process. Members further recommend that steps be taken to identify communities which

have not received funding for projects and to conduct outreach activities and provide assistance in identifying opportunities and preparing project proposals.

The committee notes that the Department of Culture and Heritage also distributes funding on behalf of the federal government for French language initiatives as well as Inuit language initiatives. With the implementation of Nunavut's language legislation, the most significant increase in the department's budget relates to language initiatives; in particular, the new Language Implementation Fund of over \$3 million, and increased support for grants and contributions for community-based language initiatives. Members look forward to regular updates on progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I am confident that members will have their own comments and concerns as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, please raise your hand. Opposed. Abstentions. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Minister Arreak, we will continue with the review of your department at our next meeting. Thank you.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 49 and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at half past one in the Tuktuk Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 18:

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
 - Motion 46 – 3(3)
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 52
 - Bill 57
 - Bill 58
 - Bill 59
 - Bill 60
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 47
 - Bill 48
 - Bill 49
 - Bill 54

- Bill 56

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. In accordance with the authority granted to me by Motion 44 – 3(3), this House stands adjourned until Monday, March 18, at 10:00 a.m. I hope everybody has a good weekend.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:49*

