



**Nunavut Canada**

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**3rd Assembly**

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**DAY 87**

**Monday, September 9, 2013**

**Pages 4742 – 4796**

**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)

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

**Joe Enook**

(Tununiq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Allan Rumbolt**

(Hudson Bay)

**Fred Schell**

(South Baffin)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Government House Leader; Minister of  
Community and Government Services;  
Minister responsible for the Workers'  
Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**

(Arviat)

*Minister of Justice; Minister  
responsible for Nunavut Arctic  
College*

**Hon. James Arreak**

(Uqqummiut)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;  
Minister of Environment; Minister of  
Languages; Minister responsible for the  
Utility Rates Review Council*

**John Ningark**

(Akulliq)

**Johnny Ningeongan**

(Nanulik)

*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the  
Committee of the Whole*

**Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Moses Aupaluktuq**

(Baker Lake)

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of  
Economic Development and  
Transportation; Minister of  
Energy; Minister responsible for the  
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Hon. Monica Ell**

(Iqaluit West)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister  
responsible for Homelessness; Minister  
responsible for the Qulliq Energy  
Corporation; Minister responsible for  
the Status of Women*

**Hon. Keith Peterson**

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**Jeannie Ugyuk**

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, September 9, 2013**

**Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

**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:** Members, before we start, I wish to inform you that the Member for Hudson Bay will be absent from the House for a few days.

Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Taptuna, Acting Government House Leader.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 310 – 3(3):  
Minister Absent from the House**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the Hon. Lorne Kusugak will be absent from the House for September 9 and 10.

He's out of the territory for medical reasons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Minister's Statement 311 – 3(3):  
Sivumuaqatigiit Division**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, as we make Nunavut stronger, we need to continue to increase the number of Inuit working in the government as set out in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. We need to do more than just hire Inuit beneficiaries. We have to value the Inuit employees who work for government and give them the opportunity to advance in their careers. We have to continue building the expertise of all our employees so they can deliver high-quality services to Nunavummiut.

The Sivumuaqatigiit Division that we created during the recent reorganization of the Government of Nunavut will help us to achieve these goals. Many Government of Nunavut employees are already benefiting from the training that Sivumuaqatigiit provides in financial management, computer software, the supervision of employees, and planning and managing projects.

Sivumuaqatigiit is also working to get more Inuit into the senior levels of government. The Sivuliqtiksatsat Internship Program enables beneficiaries to go into management and specialized jobs and

acquire the skills and confidence they need through on-the-job mentoring.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Sivumuaqatigiit is leading our efforts to recognize the skills of Inuit employees, particularly when it comes to serving communities in their first language by enhancing the language training it provides government employees.

Mr. Speaker, through Sivumuaqatigiit, we are coming up with new programs and new approaches that will attract more Inuit beneficiaries to work for the Government of Nunavut. Sivumuaqatigiit is an important part of our efforts to implement the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. It will help make our decentralized model of government work so that jobs and benefits reach all parts of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, these efforts will take time, but through our actions today, we will see results in the years ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

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

#### **Member's Statement 534 – 3(3): Developing Nunavut's Renewable Resource Sector**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was recently in Repulse Bay, albeit overnight and I left the following day. Mr. Speaker, I apologize for my earlier mistake. I was

speaking with some residents and it is obvious Nunavut has to stand on its own. As an example, we have to deal with food security, healthy foods, and to have our communities in Nunavut to administer their own affairs.

We all noted that not many communities have the means to independently administer their own affairs since Nunavut doesn't have any agrarian industries and we can't grow our own foods due to our environment. We don't have the climate that our southern agricultural industries enjoy and the north isn't conducive for growing plants. Furthermore, within Nunavut, we don't have the luxury of having forests and we can't use timber to help with economic development.

The person I was speaking to in Repulse Bay works for the Aivilik Development Corporation and he said that within Nunavut, we have to look at (interpretation ends) renewable resources. (interpretation) We have these resources, such as fish that migrate up the rivers to the lakes. Our seas have many types of resources.

If we want to be independent, as per my understanding, and if the government can provide assistance to implement the *Tamapta* Mandate, part and parcel of this policy is to enhance community development, such as (interpretation ends) food security.

(interpretation) To speak about one issue, at the appropriate time, perhaps I will direct my questions to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 535 – 3(3):  
Working Together to Address  
Food Security across Nunavut**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address comments made by the Premier last week regarding the partnership between NTI and the Government of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that this relationship has been renewed. It is extremely important that it remain strong.

Mr. Speaker, after almost three years of public engagement with communities, Inuit organizations, the private sector, and the government, *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* received assent in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. This legislation was the result of a process co-sponsored by NTI and the Government of Nunavut. Poverty reduction has been priority of the *Tamapta* Mandate while NTI continues to work to find new solutions through the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

Mr. Speaker, from the round-table process, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition was established as a collaborative organization with input from different government departments, the private sector, and Inuit organizations. Its objective was to develop the Nunavut Food Security and Action Plan.

Mr. Speaker, on three separate occasions, a food security strategy and

action plan has been promised to Nunavummiut: once in November of 2010 to come into being 18 months later, once in February of 2013 to be delivered in April of 2013, and then once again in June of 2013 to be announced in September, this month.

Mr. Speaker, I have participated in all of these meetings and I feel strongly that the final steps must be taken to ensure that the very real needs of Nunavummiut are addressed. Food security is critically important, but we must also pay close attention to bringing down the overall costs of living across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased that the government is working to re-establish relations with entities such as NTI, I am concerned that the food security strategy and action plan remain in limbo. I strongly encourage our government to work with its partners and bring these important initiatives forward before the end of its term. Nunavummiut need support and hope for the future. It is up to our leaders to show the way forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 536 – 3(3): 2013  
Franklin Expedition Search**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I say "good afternoon" to the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, thank you. I rise again today to denounce the federal government's ill-conceived, in partnership with the Nunavut government, unwanted, unnecessary investment to spend hundreds of thousands of tax dollars on



the search for the lost Franklin Expedition ships. Agreed?

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I exposed the insanity of this scheme on the floor of this House in October of last year. As you will appreciate, Mr. Speaker, I was extremely disappointed at the federal government's announcement of last month that this wild goose chase to try and raise the dead will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I have also been extremely disappointed that our own territorial government has been collaborating with Ottawa in this incredible waste of time and resources.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the Government of Nunavut signed a formal memorandum of cooperation with Ottawa concerning the search. However, Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible has never tabled this document in the Legislative Assembly. The lack of transparency is simply shocking, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, hundreds of thousands of tax dollars are being wasted to disturb the resting place of this person. Can the federal and territorial governments not think of better ways to spend this money, Mr. Speaker? I have a few suggestions for them.

More funding for education.

More funding to implement Nunavut Land Claims Agreement obligations.

More funding for suicide prevention.

More funding for small craft harbours, which we desperately need in Nunavut.

More funding for urgently needed infrastructure in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have one sentence to complete. I would ask the members to give me some time.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I also would add that we need more funding for programs to help the hunters for food security.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on for some time, but I will close by noting that I will have some pointed questions for the government at the appropriate time. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 537 – 3(3):  
Signing of Mary River Project  
Inuit Impact and Benefit  
Agreement**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation for having signed the Mary River Project Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Mary River project is of tremendous importance to the residents of Pond Inlet

and other communities in North Baffin. The signing of the IIBA has been a much-anticipated milestone in this journey, and I pay tribute to the hard work of all parties in reaching an agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the IIBA includes a number of provisions that are of great importance, including an education and training fund, a scholarship fund, and a business capacity development fund.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Qikiqtani Inuit Association will be taking steps to ensure that the IIBA and related agreements will be clearly explained to the communities that will be directly impacted by the Mary River project. I also want to express my appreciation for QIA's transparent approach to making available detailed information concerning the IIBA.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have asked a number of questions in the House concerning the Government of Nunavut's plans to sign a separate development partnership agreement with Baffinland. Now that the IIBA has been signed, I look forward to progress on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I ask all members to join me in congratulating QIA and Baffinland for this achievement. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Member's Statement 538 – 3(3): QIA Signs IIBA with Baffinland**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, I believe that Igloolik can now hear the proceedings. They had the video feed, but there was no audio feed. I believe that has been rectified, so I send a good afternoon greeting to the people of Igloolik and Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today is to also share in taking pride in my colleague's statement about the agreement between the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Baffinland. As MLAs, it is obvious that the Nunavut government didn't have much leverage in the negotiations leading up to the IIBA, especially in light of the fact that devolution hasn't been completed in this territory. Be that as it was, I have often heard snippets from the Prime Minister stating that for the next government, they would like to start devolution talks for Nunavut, especially with developments occurring now.

Mr. Speaker, here in Nunavut, according to the statistics, our population is about 37,000 residents. However, these agreements govern the development of non-renewable resources, such as metal and petroleum projects in particular. Although the land claims agreement sets out a process for development agreements, the real benefits are impossible to forecast in our future as to whether Inuit will still comprise the majority of the population here in Nunavut and here I speak about Inuit beneficiaries, as it has tangible benefits.

I want to share in celebrating this event, but I also have expectations that the seas

or ocean traversed by ships is something we can expect to see more of in our future. So my expectation for the next government in Nunavut is that they will have to deal with this area to protect our marine waters and in particular, in Hudson Bay, where development may occur. Part of my expectation is to have that included in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Inuit of Qikiqtaaluk, as well as the QIA and the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation for coming to an agreement on this project that will have real benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Member's Statement 539 – 3(3):  
Community-based Research  
Projects in Arviat**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to acknowledge the many community-based research projects taking place in Arviat this summer. Announced on July 8, the Atii! Let's Do It! project is a comprehensive healthy living intervention for children, youth, and families in Inuit communities in Nunavut and is lead by the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the Atii! project is one of nine projects under the Government of Canada's innovation strategy, Achieving Healthier Weights in Canada's Communities. This project will provide Inuit children and youth with opportunities to learn about healthy food

choices, traditional Inuit harvesting, and the promotion of healthy living in the community while providing opportunities for children and youth to practise good decision-making through an Atii! game show and an interactive Atii! Let's Do It! app.

Mr. Speaker, Arviat students this summer were also engaged with a community greenhouse and composting project funded by Health Canada that will see the community learning to compost and grow their own healthy plants and vegetables. Using recycled materials, students constructed several portable grow boxes and composting units that will be tested over the next year as part of the community's efforts to increase opportunities for local food production.

Additionally, in partnership with the Canadian Institute of Child Health, Coca Cola Canada, and the Arviat Wellness Centre, Inuit families will learn about healthy food choices and the importance of regular physical activity through a digital literacy and storybook project. Translated into English, French, and Inuktitut, the non-branded culturally relevant material will include a storybook and activity suggestions for parents and teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre, Health Canada, Canadian Institute for Child Health, Coca Cola Canada, and the Hamlet of Arviat's wellness committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Member's Statement 540 – 3(3):  
Congratulations to 2013 Baker  
Lake Graduates**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate this year's graduates in Baker Lake and to pay tribute to the many people who have contributed so much to the success of our students. Mr. Speaker, the graduates are Nicole Hachey, Katrina Mautiritnaak, Shadrach Mautiritnaak, [Glen] Nanauq, Charles Martee, and Atuat Tagoona

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I often reflect on five years of representing Baker Lake in this House, I can say with confidence that some of the best memories have been the times when I have attended and spoken at our community's annual graduation events.

I have been very proud to have had the honour of presenting the Pilimmaksarniq Award at a number of graduations. The Pilimmaksarniq Award is presented each year to a graduating student who has demonstrated the quality of acquiring and developing skills through observation, practise, effort, and action.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Baker Lake, I believe that support for education and lifelong learning must be a key priority for our government. We all want our young people to succeed in life and to take on the responsibilities of leadership. Education is the strongest tool by which our youth will succeed in the future and contribute to their community.

I would like to also take this opportunity to recognize the commitment of our teachers, school staff, parents, and volunteers. Mr. Speaker, the dedication of the school staff and the ongoing support of the community make it possible for our young adults to reach their full potential.

I would also like to pay special tribute to the tireless efforts of Ms. Rebecca Walker. For a number of years, she has ensured that our annual graduation events have been a tremendous success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating this year's Baker Lake graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Member's Statement 541 – 3(3):  
Pangnirtung Airport**

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to again address the need for a new airport for the community of Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, as anyone who has flown to Pangnirtung can tell you, our community's airport is one of the most challenging places anywhere in the country in which to land.

Mr. Speaker, the Pangnirtung Airport's unique location in the middle of the community and its short runway present many challenges to aviation. In addition, the current airstrip is becoming increasingly costly to maintain.

In recent years, a number of serious incidents of vandalism have occurred at the airport. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, these incidents have been directly linked to the airport's current location and its inadequate fencing and security equipment.

Mr. Speaker, although the community has appreciated the efforts of the government to undertake runway, fencing, and security improvements, these are short-term measures.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I was very proud to have been able to vote in favour of funding to go towards the relocation of Pangnirtung's airport.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague from South Baffin noted last Friday, the government's plan to construct a new international airport in Iqaluit must be accompanied by a commitment to also address the needs of the smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

**Member's Statement 542 – 3(3):  
Youth Dealing with Suicide**

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send good afternoon greetings to the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, we often hear not just in the House about youth and their proclivity to attempt suicides. We don't

hear often enough about youth who have saved their fellow youth who are suicidal. We don't usually find out about these types of actions.

This was evident in our community this spring where one youth shot themselves, but fortunately a very young person happened to be in the vicinity and was able to save the life of the youth, although he had shot himself. When the youth came upon him, he saved the person and that youth ended up being wounded when the bullet passed through and hit him.

We often hear about cases where people attempt suicide, not just through firearms, but through other means as well amongst our youth, but quite a number of attempts are stopped and we have to showcase our appreciation to the people who save others.

I am extremely proud of that youth who saved the person. This occurred in Clyde River this June. I would like to acknowledge Justin Kautuk for his selflessness in saving the life of another person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Madam Aariak.

**Member's Statement 543 – 3(3):  
Iqaluit Sustainability Plan**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send good afternoon greetings to the residents of Iqaluit East as well as all Iqalumiut. This item I am going to speak to is something I take great pride in, as the

Iqaluit City Council has undertaken a lot of work to prepare for the future development of the city.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Iqalumiut have witnessed incredible changes in our city over the past 20 years. Iqaluit has more than doubled in size since it was first decided that it would be the new capital of Nunavut. New housing, offices, and businesses have sprung up and transformed the place we call home. All of this growth makes Iqaluit a more vibrant and dynamic place to live. But as we welcome more and more people, there are also challenges: building new houses and infrastructure, maintaining a sense of community, and the need to protect the natural areas that enrich life here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the City of Iqaluit for engaging Iqalumiut on what the future community should look like and the steps we should take along the way to get there. Over the past two years, the City of Iqaluit has asked Iqalumiut for their input. They have taken the ideas they have collected and put them in Iqaluit's sustainable community plan.

A draft of the plan is now ready and has been posted on the City of Iqaluit's website. You can see it by clicking on "Sustainable Iqaluit" on the City of Iqaluit's home page. You can also pick up a hard copy of the draft plan at the community hall or Building 2425. If you have any questions about the plan, drop-in sessions will also take place at the Iqaluit Centennial Library on September 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and on September 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage all Iqalumiut to read the report and provide any comments they have to the city by their deadline of September 15.

The work that has been taking place to ensure Iqaluit is a self-reliant and sustainable city into the future is truly an extraordinary one and I would like to congratulate the City of Iqaluit for leading the way for communities across Nunavut. The future of our growing community truly depends on *Piliriqatigiinni*q. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Oshutapik.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to welcome a visitor to the Gallery who is from my community and who is a constituent in my riding. He is here to do some work in Iqaluit, so he isn't just visiting us here. Please welcome this person who will be the Sergeant-at-Arms this week, Jayko Ishulutak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Item 6: Oral Questions****Question 700 – 3(3): Providing Support for Medical Clients**

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

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, medical clients often need to travel out of the territory to receive medical services. For my constituents, this usually means travel to Winnipeg where, if they are lucky, they are able to stay at the Kivalliq Inuit Centre. Unfortunately, when the centre is full, some clients have no choice but to stay in a hotel and arrange for their own food and transportation. This can be extremely difficult, especially for low income earners. The situation can also create other problems.

Can the minister clearly describe what support and financial assistance is provided to medical clients who have no room at the Kivalliq Inuit Centre and have to stay at a hotel during their medical travel? When patients have to stay at a hotel, the situation isn't the same as those patients who board at the centre. Can the minister clarify for me whether or not further support has been considered for this issue to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for the question. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that when the Kivalliq facility doesn't have any rooms for

patients, patients will be boarded in local hotels. As Mr. Ningeongan indicated, it's my understanding that the patients and clients will be transported back and forth between the local hotels and the boarding home to eat their meals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. My constituents have told me, particularly the people on limited incomes referred to in my earlier question, that the amount of money that is provided to help them pay for their meals when they are staying at a hotel is not enough to cover all their expenses. If they were at the centre, there wouldn't be any concerns.

Can the minister clarify how his department ensures that the amount of financial assistance is sufficient to cover the needs of Nunavut's medical clients? The extra expenses cause problems for some people and that is why I would like further clarification as to whether this issue will be resolved in our immediate future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of any plans to change it. The rates are set with the Government of Canada through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. If a patient or client is staying at a private billet, the private billet can receive \$100 a day and that would include all the meals that are provided to their billet. If

they don't provide meals, then they will be paid \$50 and the patient would receive \$50. In the case that Mr. Ningeongan has described, the boarding home would transport the patients back and forth between local hotels for their meals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. I understood the health minister's response. Many of my constituents who are required to travel to Winnipeg for medical travel but are forced to stay in a hotel feel that they are not receiving the same level of service and support as clients who are able to stay at the Kivalliq Inuit Centre. Will the minister commit to reviewing the boarding arrangements for medical clients from the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for raising that issue. I will have my officials in Iqaluit contact the Kivalliq officials and they can contact the boarding home in Winnipeg to discuss any issues or concerns his constituents may have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

### **Question 701 – 3(3): Developing Nunavut's Renewable Resource Sector**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement in today's orders of the day, I talked about the pleasure I had talking with one of the Repulse Bay elders about the possibility of developing renewable resource opportunities in the community of Repulse Bay. We understand that there is no shortcut in this request.

We talk about the availability of the agri-food processing industry. We realize these involve food handling, storage, processing equipment, and we also understand that we have to follow the protocols for the regulatory agency, but we are looking for self-reliance. That was our dream before this government came into force.

My question to the hon. minister through you, Mr. Speaker, is: is the minister willing to communicate with the Repulse Bay Aivilik Development Corporation about their idea of using country food and selling it through commercial means? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I assume you were directing that question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Is that correct? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Yes, my question is directed to the lead Minister of Economic Development. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.



**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we do have economic development officers throughout communities in Nunavut. They assist individuals and organizations within our communities of Nunavut. As the member has stated, we do have all that information on our website.

If there are individuals or community members or organizations that are willing to access some funding for any kind of initiative the community may have, we certainly welcome that. We will certainly work with communities that are showing initiative in improving the economic development of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you. My first supplementary, I thank the hon. minister for the positive answer. The point is that the person I have the opportunity to speak with is unilingual and I don't know if he has access to the website, so I certainly hope that he will communicate with his regional person from the Kivalliq region, along with the local economic development officer. Can you ensure that this person, who has dreams and aspirations of his own to try to do something for his people and the community, is given that opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, usually our

officials from Economic Development do get applications and letters from individuals out there from the communities. We do our best to follow up on them.

In this case, if the person is unilingual, we will certainly do our best to assist the person. We do have multilingual staff who can deal with those types of scenarios where we will do our best to assist any community member or organization in economic development of their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, of course, we realize that you have to go through the process, but when you're unilingual, even having to fill out an application form can be overwhelming. Will the minister assure me that this person will get every help that he can get, along with an interpreter and translator, to make sure that he is given, again like I said, an opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is a public government and we do our best to assist all public members of Nunavut, whether it's economic development or otherwise. I'll inform my officials at the department to check into this through the regional office and I'll certainly get back to the member about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Question 702 – 3(3): Status of Pangnirtung Airport Relocation**

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

(interpretation ends) In May of this year, the Legislative Assembly approved \$1,831,000 in capital carryover funding for the department's project to relocate Pangnirtung's airport. Can the minister indicate how the department will be spending this approved funding during the current fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the exact cost breakdowns for each community, but I do understand that for Pangnirtung, there's \$250,000 being spent on upgrading the fence on the perimeter for security reasons. For the other details, I'll have to get back to the member on exactly what the other funding is being spent on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Your first supplementary, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Mr. Oshutapik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. In May of this year, I asked the

minister a number of questions concerning the government's plans to relocate Pangnirtung's airport. At that time, he indicated that his department was undertaking preliminary design work. Can the minister update me today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member from Pangnirtung is well aware, with the terrain and the geology that limit a lot of options, there are very few options for relocation. That's one of the huge factors that are being looked at.

Planning and design work is being done at this time, but for the relocation of the airstrip, it's one of those things that we do need assistance from the federal government to help us with the cost of construction of the relocation. As the member is well aware, there has been ongoing work collecting weather data and other various options that are being looked at, including the extension of the airstrip itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Your final supplementary, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. (interpretation ends) During last Friday's sitting of the House, the minister told my colleague from South Baffin that the government's P3 approach to building Iqaluit's new international airport will help to save "our funds for doing other projects and

infrastructure” in the smaller communities. Can the minister indicate what the current cost estimate is to construct Pangnirtung’s new airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about class “X” estimates and, of course, these estimates are from 2004, it was estimated at \$40 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Question 703 – 3(3): Working Together to Address Food Security across Nunavut**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier following up on the collaborative work done by stakeholders involved in the Nunavut poverty reduction round-table meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I have directed my question to the best minister to receive answers because, as everyone is aware, the file is stretching across a number of departments. The Minister of ED&T took the lead on this project from day one, only to have it later fall under the new Department of Family Services.

As mentioned earlier today, part of the work done by the Nunavut Food Coalition addressed the completion of the Nunavut Food Security Strategy and

Action Plan. Can the Premier confirm whether or not the Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan have been discussed at the cabinet table? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the member’s question, this issue has been the subject of much work by NTI and the senior officials of the Nunavut government underneath the social services section. The work is still in progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that reply. I’ll try and make my question a little bit clearer. I do realize there are partners, lots of people who are involved, and lots of departments that are involved. I think, as the head of the Executive Council, that’s why I was directing the question to the Premier. I thought my question was quite simple in terms of has the strategy and action plan been discussed at the cabinet table. What I was hoping to find out is whether it’s actually going to be tabled in this House before the end of the sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the working

relationship with NTI is ongoing and progressing well. The issue of the food security strategy and action plan is in the works between the Department of Family Services as well as other stakeholders, including Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and it is in progress. Before it is completed, it will not come to the cabinet table until it's finalized. We would be happy to report the finalization of that, but I will repeat that it is in progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So then what is the current timeline for the release of the Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan? Will we see it before the end of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the final details rest upon the Department of Family Services, the Department of Family Services would have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook. Sorry. Mr. Curley from Rankin Inlet North.

### **Question 704 – 3(3): 2013 Franklin Expedition Search**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's Statement, I

have a question for the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, it is my position that the government should not be the only source of funding for organizations, such as the Canadian Geographic Society, in their quest to search for the missing man who died over 168 years ago, including his two ships.

Last year, it was announced that the Government of Nunavut had signed a formal memorandum of understanding with the federal government concerning a "framework for the cooperation and coordination" of the search for the lost Franklin Expedition ships. Can the minister explain why he has never tabled a copy of this MOU in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Department of Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Curley for raising questions on this matter. Yes, an agreement was reached on an MOU with respect to the Franklin Expedition and the ships that were lost. This was first started in 1945. This continues to date. In 2012, an MOU was signed for this work and this agreement currently covers the lost ships and islands that the expedition may have used. They are looking for artefacts and other items.

Whether this agreement can be tabled is not something I've had a chance to discuss with my colleagues. The usual practice regarding MOUs is that they aren't tabled in the House. Since it is just

an MOU, it hasn't been tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question related to this matter. A large amount of funds have already been expended over this winter, at least in reading the news release. The amount listed was \$475,000 allocated for work this summer. They used quite a bit of funds for this project. Due to this reason, I believe it is listed within the MOU. Can the minister inform this House when he would table the MOU since Nunavutmiut need to know about this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I believe the figure is about \$400,000 that has been used by the agency and none of these funds stem from the Nunavut government.

The Nunavut government contributes funds from the operations and maintenance budgets for archaeological activities. The funds were approved by this House for these purposes. Last year, I believe I had responded that \$25,000 was set aside for that and again, in this fiscal year, the total amount is approximately \$25,000. The funds come from the budget that was approved and the government hasn't set aside any further funds other than those identified in the operations and maintenance budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I'm asking these questions is that the federal government sets aside a larger amount of money than the Nunavut government. In my preamble, I indicated that we should not always look at the federal government to look for money for expeditions, such as the Franklin Expedition. There are monies available from other sources.

The Nunavut government is the only place where you can get a licence for expeditions. We should not be giving them licences. We should be giving them permits. Is it possible to have that changed and that they be given permits if they're going to be allowed to look for ships? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Department of Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the member's first question regarding the MOU, I will check into whether I am able to table the MOU, but I would be able to provide some information to the member on the details related to this agreement.

With respect to looking for human remains, although that is part of the work, it isn't the entire reason for the project, as it includes mapping the terrain and seabed, as well as what artefacts are found, which have provided a lot of information on what happened. If we had used only our funds, we

wouldn't have found out about a lot of the circumstances and we have more details that have come to light. These details pertain to the areas that were used by the lost expedition.

We haven't requested any further supplementary allocations and we haven't heard from other agencies that want involvement. The funds used for this purpose under operations and maintenance haven't experienced a shortfall and the budget was already approved previously as they are part of our operations and maintenance funds. This project is more under the federal government. We have not requested additional funds.

With the other question that you asked, if there is another project requested, I will sign that licence or permit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

### **Question 705 – 3(3): GLO Position in Cape Dorset**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Madam Premier and my question is in regard to the GLO position in Cape Dorset. When is that position going to be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I look through my briefing notes, the GLO

positions in a variety of the communities are getting filled. Again, it does indicate that they are at the interview stage at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How many other communities are still waiting for GLOs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank him for asking that question. There are 19 positions that are filled and there are 6 vacant positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will all those positions be filled before the end of the mandate of this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The filling of these positions are at various stages. Some of them are at the interview stage and some of the individuals are still waiting to get an office. Due to a variety of reasons, I cannot indicate whether we are going to be able to fill all of the

positions prior to the end of this government. There are a variety of reasons. There are some with no offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Question 706 – 3(3): Review of the Disaster Compensation Program**

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

As the minister is aware, two major disasters occurred recently in my constituency that resulted in the destruction of tens of thousands of dollars worth of hunters' boats and equipment. One of these incidents took place at the floe edge and the other occurred when a major storm hit Pond Inlet.

As I pointed out in my Member's Statement on Friday, the current lack of adequate marine infrastructure in Pond Inlet has left my constituents extremely vulnerable to storms and other natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, my first question is the following: will the minister assure me that the hunters who lost their equipment in these incidents through no fault of their own will be eligible for compensation under the government's Disaster Compensation Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Enook for asking that question in regard to the Disaster Compensation Program. It is a very important program. There are forms available and the conservation officers in the communities can help individuals who would like compensation under this program. Our office has the forms.

There are a set of criteria that has to be met before any compensation is paid out. Usually, the ceiling that can be collected through this program is \$10,000. Anybody can make a claim for compensation. If they are not approved for compensation, they can make an appeal to the deputy minister. There is room for appeal should they get turned down for compensation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Your first supplementary, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2005, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated undertook a joint review of harvester support programs. One of the recommendations in the final report from this review, and I'm sure you have a copy, was that the GN and NTI should work more closely together to develop and administer programs to assist hunters who suffer equipment losses. Can the minister tell me what actions have been taken to implement this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Usually, under Nunavut-wide programs, we work very closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. In regard to the Disaster Compensation Program, it was originally set at \$80,000, but since we didn't receive many claims, we set it down to \$40,000. Again I would like to indicate that we have a close working relationship with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in regard to Nunavut-wide programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Your final supplementary, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I didn't make myself clear, but I was trying to ask you if Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut government have taken any actions to implement the recommendations in this report. My question is: what actions have been taken to implement these recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the information in front of me and what recommendations have or haven't been implemented. I will take the question and respond in written form at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Question 707 – 3(3): Relations with Inuit Heritage Trust**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While my colleagues were raising questions on this issue, a question popped up, so I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Heritage. I am referring to the portfolio that my *Annuraaqatik* holds.

Mr. Speaker, this matter raised by my colleague regarding the lost Franklin Expedition ships and the response kind of confused me. Can the minister clearly indicate whether the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement was referenced with respect to the Inuit Heritage Trust and their cooperation with the Nunavut government or is it unnecessary to request their approval prior to approving a permit for this project? I would like it clarified, please, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my *Annuraaqatik* for asking me a question on this matter. Yes, we work closely with the Inuit Heritage Trust on heritage issues and place names related to topography. When we are required to work together, we keep the Inuit Heritage Trust informed about artefacts, research, projects, and further information requests. That is part of their mandate. We work with them on these matters and we keep them informed about projects, including any approvals that are required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted further clarification, which is why I asked about the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, as it forms part of Canadian law.

Mr. Speaker, just recently when my colleague was raising questions about permitting process, the question was asked, "Can you deny their request?" The answer I heard was that no, you could issue a permit to the applicant. Mr. Speaker, is the minister saying that the Inuit Heritage Trust responsible for archaeological matters in Nunavut has no involvement in this approval process? They have no say in this matter? Is that what the minister was trying to state? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work closely together with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated or Inuit Heritage Trust. Yes, we give the Inuit Heritage Trust every opportunity regarding the permits. I sign those permits when it comes to doing archaeological work or searches, as in the Franklin Expedition ships. We negotiate with them and if there is a requirement for approval and so on, there is constant dialogue between our government and the Inuit Heritage Trust. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am thankful that you work together with the Inuit Heritage Trust and other birthright corporations or organizations.

One of the questions that were posed by my colleague was whether you sign the permits or licences. Do you negotiate with the Inuit Heritage Trust regarding the issuing of permits and if they tell you that they are concerned or that they think that looking for the Franklin Expedition ships is useless? Do you consult them prior to giving them a permit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't say that. If there is a request, it would be given to me and I would sign it. If it looks like it should not be approved, then it does not come to my desk and they would make an indication of the reason why the permit was declined. Yes, I would sign a permit if it comes to my desk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Question 708 – 3(3): Kivalliq  
Boarding Home Contract**

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

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, the residents of the Kivalliq region who are required to travel for medical services out of the territory go to Winnipeg where, if they are lucky, they can stay at the Kivalliq Inuit Centre.

Can the minister provide an update on the current status of the medical boarding home contract in Winnipeg? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The medical boarding home contract was awarded on April 1, 2013 through an RFP process and it's valid for three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Peterson, for your response. Having a boarding home to stay in certainly makes the experience of travelling away from home for medical treatment much more comfortable.

Maybe, thinking now, I should have asked this question a lot sooner than today because my cousin back home is always so keen to remind me that the problem we have is we grow too fast and

too late smart. I am almost convinced that I am a victim of that truth.

>> *Laughter*

Can the minister describe what considerations have been given to changing the requirements of any boarding home contract to ensure that adequate accommodation is available and clients do not have to stay in hotels? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for the question. Of course, we're always monitoring the usage of the boarding homes, wherever they are in the north and south, to address the occasional overcrowding. It doesn't happen very often, but we are aware of situations where it does and our officials work with the boarding homes to address those.

Unfortunately, it's very complex and complicated to predict how many patients and clients will require a boarding home in a given week or even a given year, but we constantly monitor it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. When some of my constituents have to stay at a hotel, again as I mentioned earlier, they feel that they do not receive the same level of support and service as clients who stay at the

boarding home. Will the minister commit to reviewing the boarding home contract to ensure that in the future, there will be adequate support and accommodation for medical clients from the Kivalliq region? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the clients and patients may stay at the local hotels, the boarding homes still work with the individuals. They come to the boarding home for meals. They can avail themselves of the amenities there, whether it's Internet, recreation, and other activities.

Again, as I had said earlier in question period, I will have my officials follow up with the boarding homes to see if there are any issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

### **Question 709 – 3(3): Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, my questions are regarding the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan. According to the action plan, the Department of Health plays the central role in mobilizing the GN regarding the implementation of the action plan.

An issue that has been raised by many members and is one of the anticipated

results is “Sufficient and effective mental health and addictions facilities in Nunavut.” Could the minister update the House on this priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, I think that earlier this year and last year, we talked about this as well. We have moved away from the concept of an addictions facility. We were working on a pilot project, a mobile addictions treatment facility, a pilot project that was held in Cambridge Bay. We're still evaluating the results of that and following up with individuals.

We opened up the Akausisarvik facility here in Iqaluit in May. It is a larger facility. Thank you to the Legislative Assembly for those additional funds. My officials are looking at a facility in Rankin Inlet and they are looking at a facility in Cambridge Bay. When I say looking at a facility, it's looking at existing buildings and seeing if we can reconfigure or repurpose them, as the government buzzword is, to use them from what they were previously used for and use them for mental health and addictions facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With any action plan that requires an evaluation to show its success, has an

evaluation of the current action plan been initiated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Yes, the implementation committee is working to retain a person to evaluate the action plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March 2014 marks the end of the current action plan. Has the Government of Nunavut started working with NTI, the Embrace Life Council, and the RCMP to renew this action plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Government of Nunavut and all of the partners have regular meetings. I met with them myself in May. That topic didn't come up, but I'm sure it will at some point and I will endeavour to inform the House of that update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

### **Question 710 – 3(3): Tamapta and Homeowners and Small Businesses**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct

my question to the Premier regarding the *Tamapta* Action Plan and I want to ask about this plan as it speaks to poverty reduction. Has any consideration been given to private homeowners as well as small business owners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that question. The poverty reduction plan has many details as well as a plan to combat poverty and to lessen poverty. It has various components that were heard during the community consultations and most of the categories were brought up during those consultations. These include the shortage of housing.

One of the biggest issues brought up was that when people are hired at a job, the increased rent is the biggest obstacle local residents complained about as it can lead to poverty. We heard the message from our residents. This issue was reviewed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation and measures have been implemented, specifically the larger household income amount, to lessen the impact on newly employed tenants. This is based on this message as well as others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Premier as well as the cabinet prepared an action plan for poverty reduction. My question

is: now regarding the URCC utility rates, can this issue be dealt with by cabinet? Some residents are seeing an increase in utility rates and it can impact our residents on the cusp of poverty within Nunavut. Is this a matter that can be dealt with by cabinet or is this an issue that you, as the Premier, can resolve? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is under the portfolio of the minister responsible for the poverty reduction plan. I am unsure if this is included in this plan, but the minister responsible would know these details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I directed my question to the Premier is that in her capacity as the leader of this government, I assumed that she had discussions with her colleague about reduction in costs for our residents or she doesn't even discuss these types of issues with her colleague. This impacts all the other costs that Nunavummiut endure and hopefully this spurs the Premier to start discussing them with her colleague about utility rates as we have to provide assistance to our residents. Perhaps we need to inform Nunavummiut that we are trying to combat poverty by lessening rates to provide assistance. If you haven't discussed it yet with the minister, will you be meeting with the minister to

discuss this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is tied into the area of costs that are increasing the number of people on the cusp of poverty. This is something that is being looked at for implementing measures further down the line with The Makimaniq Plan and there are different measures being discussed for implementation. This also ties into responsible management and to ensure that we don't add to the costs our residents have to pay, especially utility costs. It has many areas that are being reviewed, but most of the details are listed out in The Makimaniq Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Members will note that the allotted time for question period has expired. Let us move on to our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Ugyuk.

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

#### **Tabled Document 394 – 3(3): Nattilingmiutut Curriculum Needs**

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter that I have received from the Kinguvaakhaliuqtiit Language Society. Mr. Speaker, the

society is asking for support for their efforts to revitalize and strengthen the use of the Nattilik dialect.

At an appropriate time, I will be asking questions on the support that is available to language curriculum initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. We will move on. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Oshutapik.

#### **Item 14: Notices of Motions**

#### **Motion 054 – 3(3): Appointment of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut – Notice**

**Mr. Oshutapik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, September 11, 2013, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that the Hon. J.E. (Ted) Richard be appointed as Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut, effective September 10, 2013.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Item 14. Notices of Motions. No? No more notices of motions. I must be seeing things. I thought I saw you with your hand up. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Oshutapik.

#### **Item 16: Motions**

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Oshutapik.

#### **Motion 054 – 3(3): Appointment of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS section 24 of the *Integrity Act* provides that the Integrity Commissioner is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to hold office for a term of five years during good behaviour;

AND WHEREAS the appointment of the present incumbent expires today;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly's Management and Services Board has undertaken a merit-based selection process for this position;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend an appointment to this position;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that the Hon. J.E. (Ted) Richard be appointed as

Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut, effective September 10, 2013.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and as such, congratulations to Mr. Richard, who is sitting in the Gallery here.

>> *Applause*

Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 32, 40, 68, and 69, and Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3) with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:24 and Committee resumed at 15:40*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Good afternoon, members and Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole. Welcome. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 32, 40, 68, and 69, and

Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with the review of Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3) and, if time permits, we will proceed with the review of Bills 68 and 69. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Does the committee agree to first deal with Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3)?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3): NHC Receives \$100 Million in Federal Government Funding – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna, and his witnesses to the table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Minister Taptuna and his witnesses in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you, Minister Taptuna and your witnesses. For the record, Minister Taptuna, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is the President and CEO of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Barriault, and on my left is the Chairman of the

Nunavut Housing Corporation board, Eugene Lysy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We welcome your witnesses to our meeting. At this time, you may begin your opening comments, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you to review my statement in the House this past May regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation receiving \$100 million in federal funding. I believe, with the help of Mr. Lysy and Mr. Barriault, we can address some of the issues and concerns.

The allocation methodology described in my previous statement and explained in the backgrounder that I have distributed to the members is essentially the latest effort by the Nunavut Housing Corporation to get better value for their housing investment dollars.

As was stated in the House, our housing crisis affects every community in Nunavut, but not every community is affected equally. Over the past ten years, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has tried a number of different approaches when allocating new units to address Nunavut's ongoing housing crisis in the most effective way possible at its disposal.

In the early years of Nunavut, it tried a "some for all" approach to ensure it was being as fair as possible to every community. Although it was fair in that every community got a unit, it was unfair in that communities all have different needs, some greater than others.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation also tried, just before the Nunavut Housing Trust came on stream, to allocate units using an intensified allocation methodology, targeting 7 out of 25 communities, to ensure the 80 housing units delivered would have a noticeable impact. This, of course, was back in 2006.

All of these methods have depended ultimately on one thing: how far to stretch the investment. When the Nunavut Housing Trust came and Canada's Economic Action Plan funding was announced, everybody got some, but some got more than others based mainly on community size and waitlists.

Now the Nunavut Housing Corporation is introducing a new approach based on all of this experience. A fundamental tenet of crisis management is to have a plan in place to coordinate resources to successfully stabilize a situation.

As demonstrated in the framework and Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy tabled last session, we must be more strategic with how we address our housing challenges. Giving some housing to every community means less housing overall for Nunavut.

By providing a transparent allocation system that recognizes the difference in the size of our communities, that determines need for public housing in an objective manner and allows flexibility for the realities of construction in the north, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is demonstrating that it is learning from its lessons.



I have great confidence that between the officials at the corporation who proposed a new needs-based way of selecting where to allocate new units and the board of directors who reviewed and approved the system before it was recommended to cabinet... .

Mr. Chairman, nothing is ever perfect. As they have done in the past, my officials at the Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to find ways to improve on it. I am sure that some of you may already have suggestions on how to improve it immediately. However, at this time, it is the best system we have on hand today.

Under different circumstances, for example, if we had a long-term funded housing construction program in place, a program that could guarantee that we were addressing our current ongoing housing needs in a progressive fashion, we could be discussing instead how a federal investment in housing should be shared among every community over time, but we do not have that luxury.

Mr. Chairman, we owe it to ourselves and our future generations to do the right thing and base our spending decisions on how best to overcome our very real, but not insurmountable, challenge of addressing the housing needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. This is specific to the mover of the motion who asked that the Minister's Statement be referred to the Committee of the Whole, specifically Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3), so that it could be reviewed and debated by the committee. I would like to ask the mover

of the motion if he has any opening comments. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to welcome the minister and his officials. Further, I am quite ecstatic that you are able to be at the witness table.

I believe it was in May 16, 2013 during our spring session that you provided in your Minister's Statement an announcement of \$100 million specific to housing to be built in Nunavut. First of all, we should thank the Government of Canada for being able to allocate funding to Nunavut to put towards housing needs.

With that being the case, the Nunavut government has given us information that they would be open and transparent. For that reason, there are some questions that have come about in regard to the Minister's Statement at that time and it would have been better if we were to ask questions with respect to housing allocation.

I think there are about 210 houses that are needed. With this in mind, I made a motion and with that, there are a lot of people in Nunavut who would like to hear more about the allocation to be provided to their community. Some communities have received housing and some communities have not received as much. I would like to receive clear responses to the questions that will be posed to the minister, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. We heard the minister's opening comments before Mr. Tapardjuk made his comments. I wonder if there

are any members who would like to respond to the opening comments of the minister. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, minister and your officials, Alain Barriault, who has been working for a long time, and (interpretation ends) the Chairman of the Board, Eugene Lysy. Welcome. (interpretation) I have worked with him for quite some time and I have known him for over 30 years. It was the first time he travelled to the Kitikmeot region as an executive director. I think it was in 1974 that he was the executive director for the Kitikmeot Inuit Association as a communications person, and I would like to welcome him.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, my point is really not so much about the waiting list because it deals with the current allocation of housing that the federal government is going to be funding. We are grateful, obviously, for the \$100 million.

I think, during the last few years, at least with the term of this mandate, we inherited a bit of a challenging situation with the experience that this current Assembly inherited from the previous other administration. I think it was a bit confusing for a while with respect to how the previous administration handled the whole stock of \$200 million worth of public housing.

With the help of many individuals, including the Auditor General and special audits that were conducted, I think we have learned quite a bit. I think now we are getting onto much more solid footing. The fact that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has become much

more independent and has much more independent personnel, the advice that is provided to the minister, I think, is much more reliable now that there are checks and balances in place, whether it be at arm's length or along with the territorial officials.

My point is that we now have a stock of housing that I think is proven in Nunavut, the existing ones that are being maintained. As well, we still have very challenging long-term housing needs. That's the area that I want to focus on. We still need over 3,000 units in the long run.

Mr. Chairman, what I want to say is this: in the last statement the minister made in May, on the second page, second paragraph, I think it's one of the keys. He indicated that "By also including community-specific construction costs and taking into consideration community capacity to absorb additional construction..." That begs a very important question to us.

Now, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation. It isn't supposed to make any money. It's like a charitable arm of the government to provide public housing, but all the 25 communities charge municipal services at the highest costs available in Nunavut for municipal services, for electricity, as well as the land costs. If you look at municipal lots, I don't think Nunavut Housing gets any special rates whatsoever.

My point is: will the minister negotiate with our partners throughout Nunavut, municipalities at all levels, to try and reduce special rates for land and development costs, as well as the

municipal rates for water and sewage and electricity much like some of the charitable organizations are normally accorded? If these were considered and the minister was to obtain them from our partners in Nunavut, the available funding to build houses would definitely increase.

The information I have is this: for municipal services alone, primarily for water, the Nunavut Housing Corporation pays \$43 million. So my question is this: how many houses can you build for \$43 million? That's not the total cost. The total cost that the Nunavut Housing Corporation pays for all municipal and power rates is about \$83 million. Someone's making money out of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and we're losing out in providing much needed public housing.

I just wanted to make those statements as a preamble before we start asking direct questions. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. You will have an opportunity to ask questions. I recognize you, Mr. Ningark. General comments.

**Mr. Ningark**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On general comments, in the hon. minister's opening comments before this committee, I think we all understand the reality of housing needs in this territory. The reality is that we are in a housing crisis. Each and every community knows that. There are families who understand what the real housing crisis is all about, and I have that in my community.

Last week, I was in Repulse Bay and had the opportunity to visit the family of a widow head of the household living in a four-bedroom home. There are 21 people living in that house and none of these people are employed. She told me that at times, there are 23 or 24. That's real. I feel for every community, every family across Nunavut, across the board, but I have seen the reality back in Repulse Bay.

Mr. Chairman, what can we do? The reality is that you allocate. We can talk about methodology, how you allocate homes in the territory, but I think the reality is that we have to base what we do on need. I have the real need in my community and I will be asking questions as we get into the discussions later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I have no more names on my list for general comments. I've got one suddenly. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2, it states that they were going to look after the people who are lacking housing. They were going to get billions of dollars from the federal government to the homeless people in Canada.

Residents of Nunavut, I believe it was last year, were given \$94,000 from the federal government to go towards homelessness. To date, how much have we received from the federal government towards homelessness or lack of housing? The housing and homelessness strategy was thought to have been given to us, as it appears. In my constituency, there are many adults who lack housing. They are not suffering

from inadequate space in their home. They don't have a home. They have absolutely no home. Some are orphaned. Some have no husband. Some have been kicked out from their homes. Some return to their community. Because of lack of housing, they are homeless.

What I would like to know is how much the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been given by the federal government towards homelessness. I'm aware of the funding that was given to Kugaaruk in the amount of \$94,000 when the whole amount for all of Canada was something like \$2 billion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. I didn't state that you could ask questions at this time. There are two people who wished to make general comments and I stated that I didn't have any more names on my list. I will give you this opportunity. I would like to state to my colleagues that I no longer have any names on my list.

We can now enter into question period. Please raise your hand if you wish to speak. For those who have questions, please raise your hand if you wish to ask questions so that I can write down your name. Mr. Enook, you can ask your question now.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, hon. minister and your officials. As the people of Nunavut, it would be good if we could get the same information. Before I ask a question, the first thing I would like to know is the housing set-up. If they're not in here, you can stop me.

When we have consistent understanding, it's usually better for people. Maybe you can tell me and the people of Nunavut how the local housing authority is handled. How connected are they to the NHC? How is the local housing authority connected to the president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand the question correctly on how connected the housing authority board is to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, as the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I am responsible for appointing the housing authority into each community that requests that. We do go through a process in trying to get the best available board member at those times for those communities that are under housing authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry if I didn't make myself clear. The question that I was trying to ask is that I think there are local housing authorities and local housing organizations. Are there two entities working for the local housing authority? How are they working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Maybe that is a little clearer. Thank you.

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

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

question. Mr. Chairman, in most communities, there are local housing organizations or associations that are elected locally for the board.

The housing authority is designated through my staff and me for appointing the board. Usually, when it gets to the stage where there is some indication that there may be some reporting or financial difficulties that housing is facing locally, we do assign housing authority boards to try and alleviate some of the issues that they're having within the housing organization in the community.

There are only five communities that are under housing authorities at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What type of authority does the local housing authority board have? Are they just the advisors? Can they make a decision for their own community of what they would like to do? Secondly, who does the local housing authority board report to, if there is such a thing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. A local housing authority board is usually set up to alleviate some of the issues that the community may be facing regarding the operations of housing itself. The authority that they are given is done through an agreement with the Nunavut Housing Corporation,

and it's basically oversight of the operations of the local housing organization there to make sure that the reporting and financial policies are adhered to.

Again, as I indicated there, there are five communities that are in that situation. It's more or less on community-specific issues that may be there. There may be different agreements between communities and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. In order for my own complete understanding of this issue, let me use this example. In Pond Inlet, there is also a long waiting list for housing. Is the Pond Inlet housing association board the last to comment on who should be allocated housing and they don't have to go to other levels in order to be approved or they don't need to report on their decision? Can the housing association determine who will be allocated a unit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The Mittimatalik Housing Association is an elected board and they do have a say in where the allocations go. The waitlist varies from time to time and, for the most part, the allocating is done locally, depending on the certain circumstances within the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to get information so I know the system. They said that the local housing association has a say. Are you telling me that the local housing authority board is not a decision-maker? As you said, they have a say. My question was: do they have authority to say who's going to get housing or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The local housing boards in certain communities, in Pond Inlet, are authorized to allocate units using the point rating system, which is the same throughout all the communities in Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, the point rating system is dependent on the situation of the applicants on a waiting list. For the most part, the policies within the local housing organizations are strictly adhered to, unless there are special circumstances that may be overridden by the Nunavut Housing Corporation through the regional directors' offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. It was stated that the decision can be overridden if special circumstances occur. Can you give me an example why the decision of the local

housing authority would be overridden? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the specific numbers, but I can give an example of where the member is asking. In some cases, there are medical situations that apply to a tenant who is seeking housing through the local housing organization. Under certain circumstances, if there are medical or other unusual circumstances, the decision by the local housing organization can be overturned to suit the specific issue that may be raised in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, (interpretation ends) hon. minister. (interpretation) Is the local housing authority board connected or do they have authority to work with according to the procedures? Can they work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The appointed housing authority does have policies and rules to abide by. They do the best they can to oversee the administration in the local housing organization. Usually a housing authority is to help alleviate some of these issues that may relate to financial difficulties faced within a local housing

organization and come up with ways to alleviate or get the problems and issues alleviated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I didn't make myself clear in my question. Maybe I'll ask it another way. Are local housing authority boards connected or do they work with or do they have to make a report to the Nunavut Housing Corporation? If they're connected that way, how does it work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All boards are required to report to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. In some cases, it's monthly and in some of the cases where there are some situations that need fixing in a certain community, they report biweekly. They do go through a management agreement with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank the minister for providing clarification. How connected is the Nunavut Housing Corporation board to the minister? How are they able to work with the minister? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation board is well connected to my office, the minister's office. We work together to come up with plans to try and address the major housing shortages we have in Nunavut. In fact, Mr. Chairman, I do give a letter of expectation directly to the chairman of the board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. minister. It's a lot clearer to me now. Mr. Chairman, I have another question because I want to have good understanding and we need to have good understanding. Can the minister explain some more to me and the people of Nunavut how the houses were allocated, who brought them up first, where they go next, and then where they have to go before they go to the house? I forget quite easily, so if you can remind me of how the procedure goes before everything goes to the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. At the end of the day, the proposals do come to cabinet; to myself and then to cabinet, the Executive Council, for a final decision.

The allocation we wanted as a government was to be fair and transparent. That's the direction that was given to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, to come up with a

methodology that would try to be the fairest way of allocating units to the communities in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, it's very difficult. We appreciate the \$100 million from the federal government, no doubt about that, but it still doesn't alleviate the needs in Nunavut. At this time, we're still short by over 3,500 units.

The methodology was approved by the board of directors. I brought it up to the Executive Council for their review and it was approved from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I wasn't clear in my question, I'm sorry. I didn't think I got an answer. Maybe if I ask it this way. When funds are allocated to build houses, such as the \$100 million, once it has been publicized, who initiates the allocation or building houses? Is it the housing corporation president? Who initiates this procedure? I know that when they need approval from the House, it has to be approved by the ministers first. Can you explain to me who initiates it once they announce that this money is available? Who has to approve? What is the procedure for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the initiation usually comes from cabinet, the Executive Council. The direction was to

find the fairest, most transparent way of allocating units to Nunavummiut. From there, it goes to the housing corporation to devise a plan with the assistance of the board to come up with a methodology that would be the fairest and transparent of all. When we went to cabinet, it was approved at that level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way I had understood it was that the Nunavut Housing Corporation, it is given to the ministers as a recommendation, then the cabinet. That's not the way. It's reversed. The minister's office makes a plan and then they give it to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Is that how I understood it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. The direction on coming up with the most fair and transparent way to allocate units is a direction that comes from the government itself through the Nunavut Housing Corporation. From there, they do find ways to try and come up with a methodology that would be the fairest of all. They do make their recommendation to my office as the minister responsible for the housing corporation, then that travels up to the next step, to the cabinet, and my cabinet colleagues to decide upon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't understand it at all. First of all, there was a statement saying that we can build houses with \$100 million. Who is the first person who gives the go-ahead to build houses in the communities? Mr. Chairman, with the procedure, who is the individual who allocates houses to certain communities and where they can go? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand that question correctly, there's no individual who makes this decision. It was the Nunavut Housing Corporation board working with Nunavut Housing Corporation officials to try and determine how to maximize the investment dollars of the federal government. It's to try and devise a plan where we can stretch and maximize and come up with the most number of units for Nunavummiut with a plan and that took a lot of people. It did not take one individual to decide that.

The allocations going to these communities were decided at the end of the day by cabinet itself through the recommendations and the work of Nunavut Housing Corporation officials and the Nunavut Housing Corporation board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Mr. Enook, you have six seconds.

**Mr. Enook**: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the six seconds you have given me.

(interpretation) I will go to questions later. The Nunavut Housing Corporation Board of Directors collaborating with the staff are the ones who make a recommendation saying where those are going to be built and in which communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, it takes a lot of officials from the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the board, with the direction from cabinet and me, to come up with the most transparent and fair way of allocating units to communities. Of course, it's based on needs rather than wants. The methodology is based on how to equalize some of the differences between the communities. As you know, the percentage for the needs of each individual community is different. If you based the allocation just on the waiting list alone, there would be only two communities that would get housing allocated to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Again, for those individuals who already asked questions, you will have an opportunity to speak more than once when every member wishing to speak has spoken. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. I want to deal with the housing issues, the housing supply, more than anything else.

I think we all know that it's quite clear, as MLAs, that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has the mandate to build

housing for Nunavutmiut. The *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act* is really quite straightforward. That's where we get the information for what the role of the Nunavut Housing Corporation is. It's right in the legislation, to provide public housing for Nunavutmiut, and that's what I want to focus on.

With a limited supply available in terms of finances, let's also be clear as MLAs that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is not the only housing developer in Nunavut. There are many, including co-ops, who do supply some basic housing, as well as the private sector. In some centres, particularly here in Iqaluit, there is a growing housing market, particularly the apartment units here and there that are unlike any other, that are not at all managed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Rankin Inlet has a mix of housing, not only the Nunavut public housing built by the Nunavut Housing Corporation but also by the private sector, but these are not affordable housing. I think this committee's mandate is to maximize affordable housing for Nunavutmiut so that local housing associations can allocate and be involved in supplying and allocating homes to those who really need housing.

My question to the minister and your team, if you would encourage them also to answer the question, I think a good example with this \$100 million is a good beginning. For \$100 million, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is proposing to build 210 units. That's a good sign and I think that's the beginning of the horizon. If we can keep that amount of housing for that amount of dollars and whatever money we can

get, whether it be from the consolidated revenue fund of the Nunavut government, we can supply some housing, but there are impediments and these impediments restrict development.

I would like to ask the minister: how can we improve incentives to supply and build more housing in Nunavut? The cost of building homes is staggering and maintaining housing with respect to the municipal services is staggeringly so high. Is it possible to reduce the cost and, if so, what are the examples that the minister and your officials can give to us to reduce the cost of building homes in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that question from the committee member. In constructing public units for Nunavummiut through the Nunavut Housing Corporation, it is staggering. There are some lots that have to be considered and the costs have to be considered for that just to put the unit up in some of these communities. I understand, from some of the information that we got prior to allocating units, that in some communities, lots can cost up to \$600,000. It is an impediment for sure.

Mr. Chairman, if I can, I would like Mr. Barriault to elaborate a little more on the details of the impediments the Nunavut Housing Corporation faces daily in trying to alleviate the critical housing shortage in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to land costs and land development costs, there's also the issue of land availability. The current land development practices with most municipalities are such that they're currently trying to fund all land development themselves and, therefore, have to recover those costs before they can proceed to develop more land. That generally means, unfortunately for many communities, that there's no developed land available and that municipalities do not proceed with land development until they have buyers in place.

When something such as the Nunavut Housing Corporation's \$100 million investment through Canada Mortgage and Housing is announced, we're then approaching municipalities to start developing land in areas where developed land does not exist. That's really creating a challenge. In areas such as Iqaluit, there are many infrastructure challenges that the city is facing and that is very much limiting their ability to develop more land to make it available for construction.

These types of issues are really a challenge, not just for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but for homebuilders and business owners and others who are looking to build in communities. Lack of developed land is also, therefore, going to be impeding economic growth of communities. It is a big challenge and it is something that I have presented at the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators, at the several mayors'

conferences as well, and had discussions with Community and Government Services.

We need to find better approaches for land development that's more affordable for municipalities and for the end users of the land as well, but that's only one of the pieces. Utility costs are, of course, an expense that we all have to contend with, whether it's the housing corporation or private sector development. That's part of the *Igluliuqatigiilauqta*, the GN's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy and framework.

We want to look at different incentives for the private sector to get more involved in providing houses. We recognize that the larger the community, the more potential there is for market growth. We need to work as a government to look at different incentives, whether they're tax incentives or other supports, guarantees, etcetera, that we can look at to support the private sector in developing more housing as well. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Yes, I appreciate that. I think the minister and the president certainly got at least part of the critical question addressed.

The need for comprehensive planning is required. My question really is: who should be leading this charge in planning for long-term housing development in Nunavut? The way it is right now, my thinking is that we only normally start kicking at the can when the feds announce some availability of funding. Without town plans on the map

anywhere, we start groping around for availability of land.

Should there be a multi-year comprehensive housing development plan for public housing specifically in Nunavut and, if so, who should lead that charge? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Chairman, as the member is well aware, we were challenged right off the get-go when the government was formed here. A lot of time was spent in trying to alleviate and fix some of these problems that we immediately faced at the time.

Throughout the process this year, we have come to understand that some of these things can be rectified or fixed and we're looking at ways to do that.

To try to come up with plans, long-term comprehensive plans, is going to be good for Nunavummiut in alleviating the housing crisis that we have here in Nunavut. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is going to be leading that charge. Mr. Chairman, if I can, I would like Chairman Lysy to elaborate a little more in detail about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lysy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to elaborate a little bit on the need for long-term planning, multi-year planning, and how that relates to providing incentives to the private sector.

The way it is right now, we go one year at a time and we say we're going to build so many houses. Nobody wants to take any investment risk in land development. If we have a long-term plan, a multi-year plan, and we announce that we're going to build so many houses a year, the private sector will be willing to take some risk. They will say, "Wow! We know that there are going to be houses every year, so we will be willing to take some land development risk and bid on those houses when they come along."

The reference to a multi-year plan, I think, can be very helpful. I know that this is something that the minister has also discussed and that we have been looking at within the corporation to consider as we go forward. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lysy. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. There is definitely a need stated with the help of Stats Canada that we desperately need over 3,000 public housing units. So that is a good start, I think, and the basis to start multi-year planning purposes. Without it, it really is a restriction on our part and an impediment to build public housing, for all that matter, and more so the affordable housing.

What I want to try and get at is some indication from the minister that he will work with the other partners and stakeholders to try and ensure that they are all partnering in pushing this multi-year plan. I think without it, the feds are eventually going to say to us, "You don't even know what you're doing up there," because they do normally cough up some money.

Secondly, I want to address the issue of other costs that I think are within our control. Should there be additional incentives by designating Nunavut housing and public housing units as charitable rates provided to them in terms of municipal services, including power, electricity? If that is the case, would you be willing to try and again entering into long-term arrangements with either municipalities or the Nunavut Power Corporation to reduce the costs of municipal and utility rates? 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, we're constantly trying to look for ways to try and alleviate some of the costs that we face at the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Yes, the cost is quite high.

We are at the mercy of some of the costs of water at the economic rates that these municipalities charge through their by-laws, and whatnot. We've got to understand at times that the municipalities do need money to run. That's one of their main revenue sources.

Mr. Chairman, we will do our best to work with our partners to try and alleviate. At the end of the day, we want more units coming to our territory for the people in our territory, and we want to try and keep our overhead costs down. Mr. Chairman, if I can, I would like Mr. Barriault to elaborate a little more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, through the housing strategy and framework documents, we are laying out a foundation for this type of collaborative approach. We recognize that, as a government, but also in partnership with private and non-profit sectors, there are many more things that we can achieve working together rather than separately. We are laying the groundwork to be able to do this.

Part of what any strategy needs is data. The first big step in doing these strategic approaches was to undertake the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey and get more information. That was the first time that Nunavut ever had that level of detail as to what housing needs were of its people, but beyond that, we were also able to recognize that there is even more information that we need to be able to do an even better job. In the design of our public housing rent scale software, we are incorporating these data-gathering techniques to be able to have more informed decision-making in the future.

We will continue to work with our partners. We are, in fact, participating in the sixth annual Iqaluit Housing Roundtable sponsored by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation later this week, and that is a get-together of realtors, private developers, and all people and stakeholders interested in housing to be able to discuss on a common ground common challenges and how we can better work together to provide the housing needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. Maybe if the minister and your officials can help us along a bit here.

Maintaining costs of these municipal as well as the power or electricity costs is staggering. Now in Nunavut, the information publicly available is Kugaarukmiut pay at max \$1.17 per kilowatt hour or something in that range. I understand that Toronto pays about 17 cents per kilowatt hour.

Now, the minister and the Nunavut Housing Corporation may have some information. Exactly how much are we paying for municipal and electrical rates annually in Nunavut through public housing? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The average utility rate that we pay for each unit out there is \$23,000 per year. It is broken down to municipal services, water, garbage pickup, and heating oil, then power and electricity. Mr. Chairman, if I can get the president to respond to those questions in the exact amounts, I would appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fully one-third of the housing corporation's public housing budget is spent on water and sewer. Roughly one-third more of our budget is spent on electricity and fuel, so we spend as much on water as we do on the entire administration and maintenance cost of our public housing, including salaries of

all 300 plus LHO employees. It is definitely our greatest cost, water.

Water consumption, meanwhile, is really not the issue for most public housing tenants. Most people on trucked water do try, naturally, to conserve water and not run out. In fact, the usage of our tenants is really quite reasonable, so that's not the issue. It's more a matter of an overall cost of the water program and how those costs are allocated. What is, indeed, happening is that the highest rate is being charged for public housing, which is intended for those who have the least ability to be able to house themselves.

Public housing is, indeed, paying the highest rate, higher than commercial rate for water. We pay an economic rate. We pay higher than hotels and private businesses. Electricity is charged to the Nunavut Housing Corporation at the commercial rate and in order to be changed, it would have to go through the utility rates review board. These are processes and issues that we are in discussion with Community and Government Services, municipalities, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Beyond that, we are also looking at ways to control electricity costs in terms of consumption. If we can reduce our usage of electricity through different technologies, then maybe we can delay the requirement to replace or add a generator to a community. Adding a generator to a community is going to add to the cost of electrical generation being charged in that community.

We're looking at different strategies and approaches to control our costs, but part of our discussions as well is the

allocation of the costs. We do pay fuel, meanwhile, at the regular market cost, so that one is not at a different rate than other users. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that information. That leads to another question. Surely, we cannot just leave the cost of utilities to chance, including water and fuel. Fuel is probably understated, but electrical... . Eventually, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is going to have to have at least a long-term arrangement or agreement with those various stakeholders or partners with respect to the municipalities or the Nunavut Housing Corporation. If that is the case, what is involved in negotiating such a possible arrangement with the partners that were just alluded to in order to reduce the cost of maintaining public housing units in Nunavut? 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, the Nunavut Housing Corporation pays these amounts to the municipalities mainly for their municipal services. For the most part, it becomes the majority of the revenues for the municipality, so it's very hard to determine how it's going to be negotiated. Of course, the alternative would be funding the municipalities from a different department.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, when a municipality gets into financial difficulties, the first thing that does go

up is their water rate to try and alleviate some of the financial pressures that they face. There's going to be a long-term plan developed for that because we've got to prove to the investors that we do have a plan and our plan is going to be a good one so that we can continue receiving investment from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. In order to incorporate long-term planning which involves municipal services or other utilities costs, I think the government is certainly going to, or the cabinet at least, establish policies and clearly set out incentives to encourage public housing. Without changes to the current policies with respect to municipal rates by the government, without the policy changes, you're not going to have any agreements with municipalities.

Now, would the minister be willing to lead negotiations with his cabinet colleagues that there be clearly set out policies that are established to encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to develop some incentives for increasing public housing by reducing costs where the government surely has responsibility to address? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I would like to remind you that your time has run out. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. It's a difficult task for sure. The municipalities do get a majority of

their funding through their municipal service agreements. If I'm still here, I would like to pave the way in trying to alleviate some of these problems to prove that this government, the Nunavut government, is capable of managing its affairs so that we could attract more investment from our federal counterparts down in Ottawa to try and alleviate the housing crisis that we have here in Nunavut.

It's going to take a lot of commitment and a lot of thought-provoking discussions when it comes to negotiating some of these things with the municipalities. I'm sure Community and Government Services and other departments, the Department of Finance, and the municipalities do have to be involved and convinced that at the end of the day, the issue of trying to come up with a good plan to benefit the people of Nunavut for good public units and how to maintain the economic structure within the municipalities without putting a lot of stress on their financial capabilities within the municipalities, a plan has to be developed that everybody benefits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. You had run out of time, Mr. Curley. If you would like to ask another question, you can do so after the other members have their turn. After Mr. Schell is done, there will be more names added to my list. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and Mr. Barriault, the president, and the chairperson for the board. Going back to the statement that the minister had brought forward back in May, he basically had indicated to me that

actually, according to the methodology that they used for figuring out which communities get units, Cape Dorset qualified for units, but the big problem was they had a generation problem that they were maxed out. I will just read you some quotes from there.

I asked the minister the question, "My two communities of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut did not receive any new public housing units. Can the minister clearly explain what specific factors led to the NHC deciding that no new public housing units will be constructed in these two communities with the next federal funding?" And then the minister replied, "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the allocation was based on a methodology that was based on a needs analysis. Of course, that's the waiting list combined with the 2010 housing needs survey and a mathematical formula that is used to make everything fair percentage-wise. Kimmirut did not fall into that category; they were further down the list. As I indicated in my Minister's Statement, the power generation capacity in Cape Dorset is maxed right out and they just don't have the capacity for any more infrastructures there."

Then I asked him another question. I said, "As the minister is probably aware, we are going to be receiving a new power plant in Cape Dorset. I'm assuming that by the time these housing units are built, we will have the capacity for the power. [Also], the current waiting list for Cape Dorset is 96 tenants. Can the minister explain again why Cape Dorset didn't get any units?" He replied back to me, "I'll try and make that clear for the member. Mr. Speaker, the power



generation capacity in Cape Dorset is maxed out. They don't have the capability of providing power to any more infrastructures there, including housing units."

Lo and behold, though, for sealift this year, we got a mobile generating unit which is one Meg, which is equivalent to pretty well the power that Cape Dorset is using right now. So my question is: is he going to re-look at giving some housing units to Cape Dorset now that we don't have a power issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even if there wasn't a power issue there at Cape Dorset, percentage-wise for the needs of Cape Dorset, there are greater needs within the communities that were allocated the units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Well, according to the list that I had and the formula that they used, there were some communities that received units that were lower on the list than Cape Dorset, so I don't believe that. But anyway, we will leave it at that.

Also, I would like to know, when they originally brought out the \$8 million in GN funds in a program prior to this out of general funds, they gave 20 units to Arviat and 5 units to Clyde River. When they allocated this other one, they gave another 30 units to Arviat and another 20 units to Clyde River. My question is: did they take into account that Clyde River

was getting five units from the previous program and Arviat was getting 20 when they allocated these extra units to them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely, all of the previous allocations were considered and at that time, Arviat was still one of the highest communities in need of housing. As I indicated previously to another member's question, if we used the waiting list, it would be only two communities that would receive allocations, and Arviat was one of them. Even with this allocation to Arviat, it still doesn't bring the percentage down to most of the communities, including Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Schell was done. At this time, I have Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you kindly, Mr. Chairman. I share the opinions of two of my colleagues who spoke earlier. I'm sure the opinion shared by all members from this side of the House is that the local housing authority should be an integral part of decision-making when it comes to the allocating of housing units in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I will have a question. You will recall this in May that I received a letter from the chair of the Repulse Bay Local Housing Organization asking for housing for that community. I would like to establish the ground for the foundation for my questions. And then I received a copy of a letter written by a local social worker

of family and children services, the Department of Social Services, from Repulse Bay, a letter written to local department personnel and to the local housing authority asking and talking about the extreme overcrowding in the community. I have visited the community and talked with the family. The signal is strong and clear. There is a real distress in the community of Repulse Bay and the Hamlet of Repulse Bay.

According to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's \$1 million housing allocation system, Repulse Bay is listed as No. 2 in the waitlist. That corresponds with the documents from Repulse Bay that I have spoken to several people. My question is: will the hon. minister stay the course with the Nunavut Housing Corporation's housing allocation system, at least on target with Repulse Bay as second on the waitlist of the government? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, of course, there's a great need for housing. As I indicated, over 3,500 units are needed for Nunavummiut. We intend to stick with this methodology of allocating units. If we ever come up with more funding from the federal government, we hope to use this methodology because it's one of the most transparent and fairest way based on need, not on political need and not on other wants. It's based on needs.

I think that once we start doing this type of allocations, one of the things I hope to

accomplish is going to be to get more units for the amount of funding we do get. Again, if we try to build in every community in Nunavut, it will be very difficult to get 210 units. We will probably drop down by 20, 30, or maybe even up to 50 units and that's not what the Nunavut Housing Corporation intends to do. We want to maximize and get the most number of units for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I'm sorry, but I believe Mr. Ningark has finished his questions. The next name on my list is Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for coming before the committee. The minister just sort of confirmed one of the questions, but just so I have it correct, in terms of the new policy or the new manner in which the Nunavut Housing Corporation is going to continue to allocate funding for new housing over the next five years or whatever, it's going to stick to this new allocation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the member. Mr. Chairman, again, this methodology that we came up with is one of the ways to allocate units. Mr. Chairman, if we had a lot of funding over \$100 million that we could allocate units to every community, but with the amount of funding we got, we are not going to be able to build in every community. As the member is well aware, just to mobilize construction companies to all the communities is a

huge cost that the housing corporation has to bear. We intend to use this methodology because it is based on needs rather than wants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I know that the minister has mentioned that this is a fair, open, and transparent policy. I guess my question is: is it actually a good indication of need in terms of all of our communities and the specific needs that exist in our communities? Maybe if he could explain why. I don't totally understand how the new policy is any better than the other one. If he could explain how it is better, it might help me to understand a bit more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, it is a mathematical formula where it is based on the number of units in the community and the number on the waitlist.

Of course, we use the 2010 Nunavut needs survey. It had a little part in coming up with the methodology, but when it comes to comparative equalization across the communities throughout Nunavut, it is the fairest way. When we just base it on the waiting list, we would come up against a wall where only a couple of communities would qualify for allocation because it's very difficult to allocate units to all 25

communities with the amount of funding that we do have.

Mr. Chairman, if I can, I would like the president to elaborate more upon the methodology that was used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I apologize, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault, I will allow you to proceed. You can go ahead, Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The methodology that was proposed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation and accepted by the board, cabinet, and our minister is to allocate based on greatest need first.

What we found when we looked at waitlists and size of communities and communities' ability to meet the need that local housing organizations defined and communicated to us, we could see that things were not equitable. There are communities that have much greater needs than others. Allocating housing to all communities means that some who have lesser needs are getting housing while some who have greater needs are not getting their needs met.

An example to compare needs would be two communities that have relatively the same waiting list. At the time we looked at Whale Cove, it had 21 applicants on their waiting list but only had 77 houses in their community. Meanwhile, Sanikiluaq had 20 people on the waiting list but 177 houses in their community. Even though both communities have the same number of people on their waitlist, one community already has twice as many houses as the other and, therefore,

has a larger ability to be able to house the people on the waiting list.

Doing this comparative method rather than just a waitlist shows that two communities with the same waitlist have vastly different overall needs. Using this method, we can compare smaller communities to larger communities. Rather than just looking at the longer waitlists that naturally occurs in bigger communities, we can look at a relative need and try to make those relative needs more equitable.

As we continue to get additional funding, we want to effectively close that gap. At some point, all communities will have the same relative need. Therefore, we can look then at how do we approach our allocations to make sure that everyone gets what they need. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of how the waitlist is determined and calculated, is it consistent across the board in terms of every community is doing it the same way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way the waitlist is done up by the LHOs throughout the communities is the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns is: how is that verified? You have already announced in answers to Member Enook about the point rating system that allocation is done the same across the territory, yet the Auditor General's report said differently, I think. Have things changed? In my mind, with some of the problems that Mr. Ningark is bringing up about 24 people in one housing unit, if there is a point system that's consistent across the board and if allocation is done across the board the same way and waitlists are the same, why does his community have one home with 21 people in there? To me, it seems like the point system is not working at the local housing authority in Repulse Bay. How it is consistent, I guess, is my question. 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. With that determination, I've got to say that in the past, the allocation system wasn't working. That's why it's that way. We want a system where it works in the methodology of allocating units so that we don't run into these situations that were mentioned before by another committee member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Affordable Housing Initiative, which was federal government funding, was \$100 million as well. Is that correct?

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, for Canada's Economic Action Plan, for the Affordable Housing Initiative, it was \$100 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under that program, 278 housing units were built all across the territory. Is that not correct in terms of all communities were receiving housing through that initiative and it was \$100 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 285 units that were constructed under that initiative and \$50 million was added from our government to increase the number to 285 units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess where I was getting confused is we're now getting \$100 million from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. We're only going to build 210 units and we're being told that it has to be built in specific communities to save money and make sure that we're ensuring that money is being spent properly. I'm just wondering why there's such a big discrepancy in the number of houses that can be constructed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I responded to that question. Within our government, we added \$50 million to the \$100 million that's the Affordable Housing Initiative that we got from the federal government in 2008. For the over 210 units that we're hoping to build, of course, as the member is well aware, the cost will rise substantially as the years go by. One of the cost factors for this is, of course, land and lots. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I must have missed that in terms of I thought that there was only overspending. In terms of the way it was explained to us over the years, it was the Nunavut Housing Trust that had the overspending of money, but I guess you're just clarifying today that the Affordable Housing Initiative actually had overspending of \$50 million as well. Is that what he's saying, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and clarify that. Mr. Chairman, it was an over-commitment rather than overspending of the amounts that we did put into the Affordable Housing Initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I guess I'm confused because I thought the over-commitment that the minister of the day had, I guess he's the one who coined the phrase, "over-commitment," I thought that was just for the Nunavut Housing Trust, not for the Affordable Housing Initiative. So that's good to know and makes it even more prudent to be dealing with it in this way so that we don't over-commit.

To make it easier for me to understand with smaller numbers, under the Affordable Housing Initiative, what was the cost per unit? Was it \$500,000? Is that what it ended up being? 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 in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Canada's Economic Action Plan, funding was provided to the Nunavut Housing Corporation through the Affordable Housing Initiative of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. That was the mechanism for transferring the money.

Under Canada's Economic Action Plan, as you may recall, there were structural insulated panel, or SIP, houses that were built. These were three-bedroom, single-family homes. There were also duplexes, seniors' four-plexes, five-plexes, and a variety of other buildings that were built

between the Nunavut Housing Trust and Canada's Economic Action Plan. If we want to look at cost per building, you almost have to break it down into building types to get a more accurate picture.

In fact, on top of this, there were escalating land development prices. Some of the original building lots that were acquired under these construction initiatives were for existing land that had been developed many years ago by hamlets in many cases, by the Government of Nunavut in other cases, and even the Government of the Northwest Territories in some cases. These building lots were acquired at a much lower cost than newly developed land, which was being funded through municipalities. There was a number of shifting and changing factors and, of course, price costs were increasing and things were changing from year to year.

In the Nunavut Housing Trust lessons learned document, which is on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's website, we actually detail quite a few of these cost factors that did impact the overall cost of building in Nunavut and throughout the world. For example, the price of copper went up significantly and the price of oil, which resulted in transportation cost increase, and so on. There are many mitigating factors.

When these over-commitments were brought to light with my administration within the housing corporation, we did cease all construction activity, as you may or may not recall, and obtained additional funding through this government before proceeding with the completion of all construction. That is why we're referring to it as an over-

commitment rather than overspending because construction activity and commitments did cease until additional budget was first acquired. We thank this government very much for the investment in this much needed housing throughout Nunavut. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this new Canadian housing and mortgage corporation, is it safe to say that each unit is around \$476,000? Is that correct? 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, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We could simply take the number of houses we're projecting and divide that into the overall funding, but that does not reflect a lot of the factors that we have to consider. The shipping cost, for example, for a five-plex can vary by as much as \$120,000 between some of our communities. For example, if we look at the shipping cost to Arviat or the shipping cost to Taloyoak, there's a sizable difference in freight costs. As well, we see land costs varying, for example, on a five-plex lot in Arviat somewhere in the vicinity of \$80,000 to Iqaluit in the \$600,000 range or Rankin Inlet in the \$300,000 range.

There are quite a few factors that very much impact the cost per unit in different communities. We still to address in order of greatest need first irrelevant of the cost. Depending on where those needs are, the \$100 million can be spent very quickly or a lot slower. Again depending on all of these variable factors, cost per unit differs greatly between communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you're saying that need is definitely the No. 1 reason why it's going to the communities it's going to. That's what my question was going to be. If it's so expensive to send them to Taloyoak, why are they going there if you're trying to...? Maybe just confirm 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. Again, the methodology is based on needs of the community rather than wants and political interference. The methodology is based on community needs to try and come up with a comparative equalization rate throughout all the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. In terms of going back to Mr. Schell's concern about his community, his community has

the need and I think Kugaaruk is another one that is always on the list. You said that you got this information from the needs survey in 2010. There were three communities that I saw that were in need in 2010 that aren't on the list of houses that will be allocated for this year. Can the minister explain? I think you had explained a little bit about Mr. Schell's community in terms of power generation, but I don't think that has been rectified. For the other two communities, maybe you can explain why need was not the factor if that was, in fact, a factor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and explain, but I won't because I can't recall all of these percentages and numbers for it. We're dealing with percentages that break down to even smaller percentages, so I'm going to have Mr. Lysy respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lysy:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every community has a need. What we're talking about here are the relative needs. Some communities have a greater need than other communities. When we look at the average waiting list percentage of the communities that are not allocated housing, it's at 17 percent. When we look at the average waiting list percentage of communities that are allocated housing, it's at 33.9 percent. So there's quite a gap. What we are trying to do through this fairness approach is to eliminate that gap so that

all communities are on an equal basis. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I think that in some ways, it's nice that we have put this Minister's Statement into Committee of the Whole because it gives us a chance to maybe see some of the improvements that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has done over the years. One of them was definitely the recommendation by the Auditor General to set up the board of directors. It's nice to have the chairperson to be able to see that they are involved in the process.

One of the things that came out with the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Initiative was we were told... . Going back to the minister saying that this is the process that's going to be followed for the next while and if we get more funding, it would be nice to have it that way, but then there are all of these other factors that come into play. We were told that the SIP houses were going to be the way that we were going to go, the prefab. I think there was \$600,000 allocated for telehandlers that are sitting in the communities not being used. I'm just wondering: are we still going with SIP houses or are we going away from that or what are these units that are coming up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's why we have this document of the lessons learned and it's



within our website. Mr. Chairman, we're trying to find the most cost-effective and efficient way of providing units throughout Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, if I can, I would like the president to respond to some of the details within the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The structural insulated panel houses, as I have noted to this House in past sessions, were found to be very costly in terms of shipping because we are, in fact, shipping Styrofoam panels. They take up a lot of volume and therefore, they're very costly to ship. That has increased overall cost per unit an incredible amount.

Even though there are substantial energy savings in the houses as a result of the higher insulation values, the payback period is very long and, therefore, does not make it very feasible for us to continue with insulated panel housing. Unless we can find a less costly way to ship structural insulated panels or a kind of insulation that takes up less volume, we don't want to continue building these only because of cost.

Telehandlers are a tool that were purchased at the time of the structural insulated panel construction to assist in the building of this housing, but also because they're one of the more useful tools that are in use in any construction site anywhere in the world. They can eliminate the need to put up scaffolding on houses. It can be very cost effective in terms of many of the activities of our local housing organizations and many of them are making very good use of them.

I just wanted to note as well that we do have the needs survey information which we did take into consideration, but we also had to keep in mind that the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey took place in 2009-2010, which was still somewhat in the early years of the construction of the Nunavut Housing Trust, and before construction started under Canada's Economic Action Plan. Under those two initiatives, there were 1,011 houses that were constructed.

The numbers, as reflected on the housing needs survey, were very much affected by all the construction that took place after the needs survey was conducted. These numbers change and we did take that into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. I know the community of Grise Fiord has written to the minister in regard to a lot of the older housing units on the beachfront that take up the space. A lot of them are really old. I think they're one of the first groups of housing units that have been built. You're saying how much it costs right now to prepare a lot to build on and the expense that's going there. Is the Nunavut Housing Corporation looking at demolishing some of these older buildings and building on the lots that are already ready to be built on? Is that a cost-saving measure, possibly, that they could be looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're looking at all ways to try and become more effective in providing housing to Nunavummiut. That will be determined down the line, but our first initial challenge is to try and deal with the housing shortage that we have here in Nunavut. That's our immediate plan. When we get to a later stage where we think that a replacement might be more efficient, cost effective, and provide better units to Nunavummiut, we will certainly take a look at that too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it not costing more to maintain these houses and keeping them going? Some of the members have mentioned and I know they have written about mould in some of the houses, maintenance of the houses, as well as the Canadian housing and mortgage corporation is decreasing the amount that it supports the housing units in the communities. At some point, isn't it going to actually be cheaper to demolish them and build new ones than actually have the older ones there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely, yes, if it comes to that determination, if it's more economical, certainly that's going to be the way to go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the 210 housing units that are going to be built for the 2013-14 budget, has any work been completed already in the communities that are supposed to be allocated housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's ongoing work that's taking place within the communities that were allocated units. Mr. Chairman, if I can, I would like Mr. Barriault to elaborate more on the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is approaching this \$100 million initiative in an organized fashion. This year, we have started with the acquisition of lots, working with municipalities to acquire building lots, and as well, for putting down gravel pads in communities where spaceframe foundations will be used. Further to that, we put together a design-build tender for the community of Iqaluit for their 30 units that have been allocated.

We're doing our tendering under a supply, ship, and erect contract in phases to ensure that we do not have over-commitments within this funding. Our first tender will be for the largest allocation of buildings, which is in the Kivalliq region, where six of seven communities are towards the top of the needs list. Once those are allocated and we have a better feel for what contractor

prices are coming in at, we will proceed with the following tender for the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk communities. Once all of these tenders are completed and awarded and all of it is being done in a phased approach, we will see how much funding, if any, is remaining and then we would still have time to proceed with more tenders. Hopefully, we will be able to allocate and build more than 210 units.

We're doing this in a phased approach to ensure that we do not over-commit and that we get some response from the contracting community and as well, from municipalities in terms of land development costs. That will give us a better picture as to how we can maximize this investment from the federal government. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In view of the time, I would like to move a motion to report progress. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. There is a motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. Mr. Enook moved a motion to report progress. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. I'm sorry. I was just informed and I wasn't paying attention to members on this side. There was a majority in favour of the motion.

We will try to ensure we don't forget members who already have a name on the list. If you want to place your name on the list, you will have an opportunity to speak to this tomorrow. We won't forget the names as they stand. Due to

this reason, I will now rise to report progress as per the motion. Thank you.

At this time, Minister Taptuna and your witnesses, I would like to inform you that the review isn't completed and please remember that you will have to appear before the committee tomorrow. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

**Speaker:** *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3) 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. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Tapardjuk. Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. No. 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. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on

Legislation tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom.

*Orders for the Day* for September 10:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 32
  - Bill 40
  - Bill 68

- Bill 69
- Minister's Statement 299 – 3(3)

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. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, September 10, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:43*

