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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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(Pangnirtung)
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(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

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(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)
Minister of Community and Government Services

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Simeon Mikkungwak
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(Arviat South)

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Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Justice; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)

Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Thursday, March 13, 2014****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanase, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>House commenced at 13:29

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Premier. (interpretation) Good afternoon, Members, Ministers, and all Nunavummiut. Good afternoon and welcome. Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna. No? (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 024 – 4(1):
Literacy 4 Life Initiative**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In keeping with our commitment to education, I am happy to announce Literacy 4 Life as a

comprehensive and intensive initiative for our schools. The initiative will begin with kindergarten to grade 4 in the 2014-15 school year and move into grades 5 to 8 and 9 to 12 in successive years.

(interpretation ends) Literacy 4 Life's specific goals are to:

- Ensure our students have the opportunity to read, write, and speak at high levels of proficiency
- Ensure our high school graduates leave school with literacy skills that will enable them to pursue career and college aspirations
- Support teachers to deliver high-quality learning experiences for our students by giving them high-quality professional development training in literacy acquisition
- Ensure literacy assessment of our students is consistent across Nunavut, is transparent and well understood by parents and students, and helps inform teachers' daily practice
- Ensure schools have high-quality resources required to support literacy acquisition in all official languages

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, students will experience a balance of direct and indirect instruction as they move from support to independence in word study, reading, and writing.

Students who struggle will be provided with timely, focused intervention to ensure that all students have the opportunity to be successful.

(interpretation ends) Reading programs will use leveled books, allowing students to master increasingly difficult text while providing parents with understanding of their child's development in relation to grade level outcomes.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, we have purchased English language leveled books for all schools and we are currently working with a local publisher to produce an extensive series of leveled books in Inuktitut. That is what I wanted to announce, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member, Mr. Sammurtok.

Minister's Statement 025 – 4(1): Fire Prevention Workshop

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Educating the public about how to prevent fires is an important part of the work done by our volunteer firefighters.

(interpretation ends) Nineteen volunteer firefighters from across Nunavut took part in a workshop held in Iqaluit from February 25 to March 4 to learn how to deliver fire prevention presentations in their communities.

Participants at the fire prevention workshop learned how to develop community presentations on topics like kitchen safety, home fire safety plans, and preventing fires in the workplace.

Participants then gave fire prevention presentations to elementary and middle school students, teachers at Arctic College, elders at the seniors' home, and housekeeping staff at the Arctic Hotel.

Training and developing community leaders to raise awareness about safety is key aspect of our Fire Prevention Strategy. We would like to thank the participants who took part in the fire prevention workshop and encourage them to share their presentations on fire safety and prevention with their home communities.

Fire prevention begins at home and in our communities. (interpretation) Help support your local firefighters in stopping fires before they start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Member, Ms. Ell.

Minister's Statement 026 – 4(1): CT Scan

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the pleasure of updating members on the installation and operation of Nunavut's first computed tomography scanner, otherwise known as the CT scanner. The equipment is fully operational at the Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit. The equipment was delivered in December and the first CT scans were given to patients on February 3.

>>Applause

Thank you, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, we purchased the new medical diagnostic equipment through funding provided by the Patient Wait Times Guarantee Trust. The trust was created in 2007 to build on and complement the continued work on wait times commitments from the 2004 First Ministers' Health Accord.

The Department of Health used the funding to upgrade to digital radiology equipment across Nunavut. About half of that \$4.5 million we received was used to purchase and install the CT scanner and the Picture Archiving and Communication Server, or PACS. The department will also be replacing outdated diagnostic imaging equipment in all health facilities in Nunavut. With the new digital X-ray equipment, we can transmit images to specialists, who can provide a diagnosis the same day rather than in several weeks' time.

Mr. Speaker, our commitment to this project is expected to result in possible savings to Nunavut of approximately \$2 million over the next five years and should also help reduce wait times for our patients.

We are committed to delivering timely health care through the benefits of modern technology. Mr. Speaker, this is good news for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member, Mr. Okalik.

**Minister's Statement 027 – 4(1):
Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq –
Inuktit Celebrations**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, *Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq* was celebrated this year from February 17 to 28. The celebrations of the Inuit language were extended to 12 days in order to provide more opportunities for Nunavummiut to fully appreciate the history, importance, and diversity of language in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, in 2011, Inuktitut was the predominant language in Nunavut, with 21,515 people declaring it as their only mother tongue. However, English was the language spoken most often at home for 46 percent of the population. This is worrisome, especially when home is central in passing our values and culture to our children.

Mr. Speaker, our language has a very strong foundation. Our language is now protected under territorial laws. However, we must all take action individually and collectively, and this starts at home.

Uqausiqput Piqqusittinnut

Sanngijjutauvuq, "Our language keeps our culture strong." Mr. Speaker, these are the words of our youth which inspired the 2014 *Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq*. When we practise our language, speak and teach it to our children, we make our culture stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Nunavummiut took the time to celebrate and appreciate this important part of our culture. Many activities were held by

various organizations and communities, including the launch of movies and books, and language issues were discussed on local and territorial radio, television, and newspapers. We even received national and international coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly delighted to share that Culture and Heritage released *Iglanaqtut!*, a collection of 11 short, original stories written in the Inuit language, both in syllabics and Roman orthography, depicting Inuit humour at its best. To accompany the stories, an audio book is also available to encourage both listening and reading skills, particularly among youth who are eager to learn using new technologies.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in looking forward to next year's new and improved *Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq*. Meanwhile, let's use the Inuit language daily, starting at home and continuing on in our schools, offices, and communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. No. 3. Members' Statements. Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 064 – 4(1): Arctic Winter Games

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer my congratulations to all of the athletes selected to participate in the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

Nunavummiut, along with athletes from other participating provinces, territories, and countries, are in for an exciting week in Alaska, filled with competition in traditional and modern sports, as well as cultural events.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the involvement of Nunavummiut in events such as the Arctic Winter Games is very important. Participation in such activities is an excellent investment in our youth. It allows our young people to experience and learn about other peoples' cultures and languages. Of course, sportsmanship and striving to do one's best are also important attitudes to encourage and develop.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the many hours that parents and coaches have invested to helping our youth become great athletes and team players.

I would like to take this time to wish all the athletes from Nunavut and, of course, the many athletes from Iqaluit good luck at the Games. I wish you the very best. Thank You Mr. Speaker

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 065 – 4(1): Condolences to Rankin Inlet

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Rankin Inlet, we are of the same mind with the family who have lost a loved on just recently. We sympathize and will keep you in our

thoughts. (interpretation ends)
Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Member's Statement 066 – 4(1):
 Arctic Winter Games Participants
 from Aivilik**

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pride in and to congratulate the athletes as I take joy in their success in representing us at the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska. An athlete who will be playing hockey from Repulse Bay is Casey Akumalik and another player from Coral Harbour is Wesley Siutinnuark, as well as two athletes from Coral Harbour for volleyball, May Ningeongan and Jay Pudlat.

I am quite proud of their accomplishments and I hope they enjoy this experience and reach the medal rounds. I hope that will be the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 067 – 4(1):
 Senior Housing in Iqaluit**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I sit on this side, my constituents continue to

express their concerns and issues that they want voiced in the House.

I have consulted with my colleague sitting next to me about elders who have received new housing where they presented their experiences to me. The elders are quite pleased with the new units, but dislike the orientation of the unit, as they are facing the wrong direction. During the day, due to this layout, their observation was that they have to use lighting. They were concerned about this because their windows aren't facing the sunlight during the day and thus require lighting even during the day.

I encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to take into consideration the proposed layout of their new units so that they ensure natural light can enter the unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 068 – 4(1):
 Search and Rescue Effort at Aggu**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues in this House, although they may already be aware of the situation as it has been in the news already, the search and rescue teams are continuing their search. Both SAR teams from Hall Beach and Igloodik are involved.

Steve Alianaq has been out on the land since Sunday and has yet to return to the community, so the search is still underway. Both SAR teams from Igloodik and Hall Beach are involved in

this search, and we have been informed that two Hercules planes have been flying as part of this search. Another plane from Resolute Bay will become involved in this search.

I wanted my colleagues to keep this person in their thoughts and to pray for the family and his safe return. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 069 – 4(1): AWG Athletes from Gjoa Haven

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 'Good afternoon' to the people of Gjoa Haven. I rise today to also congratulate all the athletes going to Alaska, that's where my grandmother's parents were from, so they are lucky they are going there.

I have four athletes from Gjoa Haven going to the games. They are: Devon Pauloosie, who is going to play hockey; for volley ball I have; Vanessa Aglukkak, Chanel Quqshuun, and Ann Sallerina. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 070 – 4(1): Recognition of AWG Participants

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the parents, families, and friends in my constituency. I am very honoured and very pleased to recognize the following athletes from Baker Lake

who will be attending the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska:

Kaytlyn Amitnaaq, badminton;
Chesley Haqpi, badminton;
Tyler Pudnak, volleyball;
Sara Nakoolak, arctic sports, who is my constituency assistant's daughter;
Miranda Uqayuittuq, arctic sports, the daughter of my colleague next to me; and
Judy Mariq, female hockey.
(interpretation ends) Judy will also be the flag bearer for Team Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize coaches Brad Maines for badminton and Steve Paterson for female hockey.
(interpretation ends) It is individuals like this who dedicate their time and effort to training our athletes and the parents and family members who support them throughout the year that our youth can have these wonderful opportunities to compete and do their very best in the world of sport.

Mr. Speaker, I wish them the best of luck and most of all, I hope they have fun. Go Team Nunavut, go! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Mr. Hickes.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Although this person is just a few feet outside the Gallery, I would like to wish a very happy birthday to Mikle Langenhan. *Nalliutigit*.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Happy birthday.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for (interpretation ends) South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 059 – 4(1): Review of Income Assistance Programs

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. My questions today are for the Minister of Family Services.

According to the Government of Nunavut's 2013-16 Business Plan, one of the priorities of the Department of Family Services has been to "complete a comprehensive review of the government's income assistance programs." When can the House expect to see the outcome of this review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Cape Dorset for his question. If I understand his question properly, are you asking about the 2013-16 business plan on which our budgets are based or is it about everything within

my department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): I will say it in English. (interpretation ends) One of the priorities of Family Services has been to, and I quote, "complete a comprehensive review of the government's income assistance programs." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Cape Dorset for the question on when the review will be done. We did a review of all the various income assistance programs, for instance, for education and for clothing, and for assistance to elders for fuel or oil. There is a lot we provide assistance for, such as daycares, and we will do a review of these programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask the minister. The Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat, which is a branch of the Department of Family Services, recently engaged the Caledon Institute of Social Policy to produce a report titled "Poverty and Prosperity in Nunavut." This report discusses, among other things, the Nunavut social safety net, including income support. I would

like to know: when will the minister formally table a copy of this report in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for South Baffin for asking the question. With respect to his first question, the review is scheduled to be finished in 2015.

With respect to his second question, I believe the review is ongoing for income support based on the (interpretation ends) Caloden report. (interpretation) This report is currently being reviewed by my officials, and I don't think it will be completed in the short term. It's going to take a while to complete since income support is a very big issue in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 060 – 4(1): Departmental Staffing in Smaller Communities

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services. (interpretation) I believe I already know the minister's name.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department employs settlement maintainers in our smaller

communities. These hard-working individuals are often on call 24 hours a day to address issues and fix problems. (interpretation) However, the smaller communities often have only one settlement maintainer in the community, (interpretation ends) and that individual cannot be expected to be on duty 365 days per year.

Can the minister describe how his department ensures continuity of service in communities when the settlement maintainer is away on leave or is sick for an extended period of time? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my department hires casual staff when required. If a settlement maintainer is either on annual leave or is not able to perform his duties, we do have a casual staffing system. During the summer, we will also hire summer students to help the community maintainers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to his response, I do understand the system. (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate if his department has determined how much it would cost to add an additional position to those

communities that currently have only one full-time departmental employee? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, regarding that issue, we are fully aware and understand it and we are keeping an eye on it. (interpretation ends) CGS recognizes that there's a significant increase in building maintenance over the past number of years. So my department is undertaking a review for preventative maintenance to determine maintenance staffing levels that may be required to address the increased requirements. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Can the minister indicate if he has discussed this issue with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) No. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 061 – 4(1): Nanisivik-Arctic Bay Highway

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): First of all, I would like to say “good day” to my constituents in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord.

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

The Minister of Transportation has said that the 21-kilometre road between Nanisivik and Arctic Bay is the only highway in existence in Nunavut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to recognize and warmly welcome Mr. James Eetoolook.

>> *Applause*

MLA for Quttiktuq, can you repeat your question, please.

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

The minister has indicated that the 21-kilometre road between Nanisivik and Arctic Bay is the only highway in existence in Nunavut. However, the department has not allocated funds for upgrades and maintenance of the road between Nanisivik and Arctic Bay since the 2009-2010 fiscal year, when \$83,000 was budgeted for this work.

Can the minister indicate if his department will consider allocating funds for upgrades and maintenance of the road between Nanisivik and Arctic

Bay in his department's next set of capital estimates?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. The highway to Nanisivik has to remain open and cleared of snow and that is our department's responsibility. Right now, I cannot say whether we have funding available for what he is requesting. Thank you.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Can the minister indicate how frequently the road between Nanisivik and Arctic Bay is inspected for its condition and safety?

As the minister has said, the federal Department of National Defence is planning to construct a new naval facility at Nanisivik. Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the federal authorities to cooperate on such issues as the condition of the road between Nanisivik and Arctic Bay?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Shooyook, there are two questions in that statement when you are supposed to ask only one. Perhaps you can start off asking your first question. Can you repeat your question, please.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you. Can the minister indicate how frequently the highway between

Nanisivik and Arctic Bay is inspected for safety?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With that clarification, I thank the member for his question on that matter. Yes, at this time, our department is making plans on this highway between Nanisivik and Arctic Bay that the member spoke about.

Further, we are working with the (interpretation ends) Department of National Defence (interpretation) to start planning. However, at this time, the budget for that is something we haven't received yet, but we are hoping to see it in the fiscal year 2014-15. Thank you.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): As the minister has said, the federal Department of National Defence is planning to construct a new naval facility at Nanisivik. Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the federal authorities to cooperate on such issues as the condition of the highway between Nanisivik and Arctic Bay?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my

colleague. As I said earlier, we are working with the Canadian Armed Forces to resolve the challenges we face with the Nanisivik highway.

There are quite a few different areas that require completion in order to be able to reopen the highway, such as site clean-up, which will be quite extensive. However, we have started the planning process at this time, in partnership with the federal Department of National Defence.

Nonetheless, with respect to the funding for this work on the highway, we will have the funds available for fiscal year 2014-15 and only then can we start work on that highway to completion in subsequent years. Thank you.

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

Question 062 – 4(1): Extended Health Benefits Program

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I asked a question on health insurance coverage for Nunavummiut and I very much appreciated the minister's assurances that her department will better communicate the existence and eligibility requirements for the Extended Health Benefits program to Nunavummiut.

Yesterday, the minister indicated that Nunavut's Extended Health Benefits program is determined at a national level

with participation from other entities. Can the minister clarify exactly which agency or entity establishes the rates and provisions provided to eligible medical clients under Nunavut's Extended Health Benefits program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Extended health benefit (interpretation) to explain it properly, my department, specifically the health department, is responsible for putting the program together with the (interpretation ends) NIHB (interpretation) board of Canada, with representation from ITK on the NIHB program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have noted from the government's past business plans that the amount of money allocated to the Extended Health Benefits Program has increased since 2011. Would the minister commit to providing me with a breakdown of allowable rates allocated under the program, the number of people who have accessed the program, and the total amount of funds expended in the program for each fiscal year since April 1, 2011? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, just recently, I had directed my staff to work on the allowable rates and I can say that there are 402 that have been requested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Yesterday, the minister indicated that the Extended Health Benefits Program funds will be expiring at the end of this month. Can the minister indicate what preparations are being made to cover medical costs that were being covered for Nunavummiut under the Extended Health Benefits Program after April 1, 2014? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current work that we are trying to do is to extend this program after the sunset date, at which time we would be reviewing the application to consider the benefit levels in other provincial/territorial jurisdictions, as well as review the current policy for clarity and wording. We will be considering incorporating indigent health benefits, a carryover from the Supplementary Benefit Program that was offered through NWT social assistance. We will be looking into those in hopes of moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 063 – 4(1): Addressing Social Promotion

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the privilege of directing my question to the Minister of Education, as he was excited to get a question yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of social promotion is of great concern across Nunavut, with Nunavut students being passed from grade to grade without learning what they need to know at each level before being moved up to the next one.

Can the minister clearly state his department's position on the practice of social promotion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. First of all, of course, we all want our students to be well educated and that is one of the priorities of every one of us involved in education. Further, promoting attendance is one that we push hard. It's unfortunate that too many don't attend classes as regularly as we would like to see and that is a great concern to all of us in Nunavut.

With respect to studies that have been done, when students fall behind in their courses, a majority just drop out. The

results of those previous studies speak for themselves. I would like my colleague to know that we have clearly identified and have stated in the past that there will be a further review of the *Education Act*.

However, I just wanted to reiterate that we will be focusing on working more closely with parents and help us encourage good attendance among their children. Also, obviously, we must not forget that students who are just starting schooling should be continually reminded that education is very important. When the number of students with poor attendance rises, it results in more falling behind their (interpretation ends) grades. (interpretation) This is a very major concern for this department.

When the time comes to initiate the review of the *Education Act*, I have no doubt that this issue will arise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is clear that social promotion has been recognized as a serious problem within our education system, as noted by the minister. Can the minister describe what his department is doing to study and measure the extent of this problem and determine how it will affect the future of Nunavut's student population? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to

thank the member for asking that question. With the issue you referenced, I believe it is practised nationwide and isn't just a Nunavut-only concern. That is why it is important for students to complete their courses.

Due to this reason, the Department of Education is working on drafting up plans on countering this trend. We are now introducing improvements in our system to ensure our students complete their education. I think I just repeated that. We are looking at improvements to the system at this time, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Just like any bad habit, once we get into the practice of doing something, it can be difficult and time-consuming to change our ways for the better. Can the minister clearly describe what steps are being taken right now to address and halt the practice of social promotion across Nunavut's school system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, we are working with the parents of the students, their relatives, the schools, as well as the communities and various levels of government on the issue of attendance. We are working with the different parties to identify how students can improve their learning.

Just looking at those who haven't gone to school over the last three months, it is as if they have never gone to school at all when their attendance becomes too low. As I said earlier, the parents, relatives, the DEAs, and our department are working together on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 064 – 4(1): Correctional Facilities

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify for the viewers at home, Mickle is just outside in the translation booths, without whom I wouldn't be able to do my job effectively.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question today for the Minister of Justice.

Last week, I asked questions to the Minister of Finance concerning the government's staffing practices. Today, I would like to focus on the status of employment at our territory's correctional facilities.

Can the minister update the House today on the current staffing levels, including Inuit employment, at the Baffin Correctional Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we see the number change almost on a daily basis. I

don't have the Inuit content in front of me, but I could look into the issue and give you the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current Inuit Employment Plan for the Department of Justice indicates that one of its strategies is to, and I quote, "promote active and regular recruitment of employees for positions in correctional facilities through an open ad for casual employment." Can the minister indicate how successful this strategy has been in recruiting Inuit beneficiaries to positions at the Baffin Correctional Centre and other facilities in the city? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inuit employment is a high priority in our department, and when I meet with our staff, I regularly ask for updates. We provide training and for next year, we have already made plans on more Inuit training because we are opening up a new facility here in Iqaluit.

The current practice, yes, needs more revisions and yes, we do need more Inuit working at the Baffin Correctional Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you once again, Mr. Speaker. The minister just alluded to the

new overcrowding relief structure for BCC that is currently under construction. Can the minister indicate what new staffing requirements for the facility will be required? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are looking at a little over 20 employees that will be working in the new facility when it opens. I have told my staff that I would like to see an updated list and more capable Inuit working in our facilities, especially with the new facility opening. I appreciate the question from the member and I will ensure that I work with the member in implementing these actions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 065 – 4(1): Consumer Protection Initiatives

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will be aware, amendments to the territorial *Consumer Protection Act* were passed by the previous Legislative Assembly to tighten the rules surrounding debt collection practices.

Can the minister indicate what additional consumer protection initiatives his

department is presently considering? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. (interpretation ends) The *Consumer Protection Act* requires updating in numerous areas, as the legislation was inherited from the GNWT in 1999. So due to the extent of revisions required, we will be doing amendments to this Act in phases. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2008, the Law Commission of Ontario released a major study on the issue of cheque cashing fees. The report noted that, and I quote, “Northern residents were the most likely of all Canadians to have used a cheque cashing service.” As the minister will be aware, the lack of banking services in our smaller communities means that residents of communities have no choice but to use the services of private retailers to cash cheques. As the minister is also aware, the fees for this service can be very high.

Mr. Speaker, Manitoba’s *Consumer Protection Act* includes provisions to regulate cheque cashing fees. Will the minister commit to bringing forward amendments to Nunavut’s *Consumer Protection Act* to accomplish the same thing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The next phase of revisions to the *Consumer Protection Act* will allow regulations similar to those adopted in other jurisdictions. They will give Nunavummiut the same legislative protection as other Canadians in dealing with cheque cashing fees, money transfer fees, and payday loans. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 066 – 4(1): Public Housing Rental Arrears

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

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recognize, an ongoing issue of concern in Nunavut has been the ability for local housing organizations to collect rental arrears. In order for our LHOs or local housing authorities to fulfill their mandate, they must have adequate revenue and resources, and the non-payment of arrears threatens their ability to do so.

According to information that was tabled in the House during the previous Assembly, the total amount of outstanding rental arrears and tenant damage owing to LHOs stood at approximately \$13 million as of March

31, 2008. Can the minister indicate what today's figure is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague from Arviat. This issue of rental arrears and collection of arrears affects every Nunavut LHO and it is a huge issue with many complexities. With the outstanding arrears amounts reaching into the millions, the arrears continue to accumulate. However, we have to pursue options with the LHOs in the communities to work on lowering the arrears in each community.

With respect to the member's question, the situation as it stands now in looking at 2012-13, the amount of arrears constituted about 80 percent of past year assessments. If you look at where the arrears originated, it carried over to an amount by the fiscal year 2013 of about \$22 million. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has indicated that it has been working to develop a detailed procedure for collecting arrears in each LHO. Can the minister indicate if this new procedure has helped LHOs to improve their collection rate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. As I stated earlier, we will continue to work with the LHOs through the Nunavut Housing Corporation to identify ways to reduce rental arrears or how we can improve the collection of rent from tenants.

In regard to your question, the LHOs in Nunavut are now making plans for a new set of procedures on the collection of rent and how it will be easier for tenants and LHOs. There are six communities where we are doing a pilot project on these new procedures to see if that will improve the collection of rental arrears. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2011-12 Annual Report of the Nunavut Housing Corporation was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 1, 2013.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the next annual report of the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates clearly information concerning the issue of rental arrears owing to our housing organizations? The amount that is in arrears should be tabled and shown. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague. Yes, it is not a confidential report, so I will provide that with the information. Thank you.

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

Question 067 – 4(1): Dust Control Initiatives

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

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the issue of dust control during the summer season in our communities continues to be unresolved. It is also the situation in my communities of Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour and I imagine throughout Nunavut communities that don't have paved roads. This is a very important matter, particularly during the dust season and a concern continually expressed to our local hamlets.

With that being the situation, can the minister update this House on any plans the department has on dust suppression? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This matter is

currently being reviewed and the problems arising from it will be identified. Last week, during the Baffin mayors' meetings, we provided them with information contained in a memory stick on dust suppression methods so that each community can review the different methods. We plan on providing every community in Nunavut a copy of this information. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a critically important issue, especially with the growth in numbers of wheeled vehicles. With that being the case, it is often windy in the communities that causes a lot of sand particles to be airborne during the summer months. With that occurring, it is particular hazardous to people with breathing restrictions.

In the year 2008, the Government of Nunavut provided \$12.0 million in funding to pave Iqaluit's roads. At that time, the government indicated that paving the roads of the capital city would reduce dust and improve the health of residents. Can the minister indicate if his department will seek federal funding on behalf of hamlets and the various hamlet organizations in Nunavut from the (interpretation ends) Building Canada Fund (interpretation) towards this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question raised by the member is an expensive proposition if we were to undertake that in every community.

However, at this time, we are looking at dust suppression methods and dust control to determine which are most applicable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for looking into this issue of dust suppression. Does the minister have any funds set aside? As we all know, it is very expensive to pave roads. Dust is a health hazard in the community. Perhaps the minister can find out before the summer what is the best dust control and do so as expeditiously as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurток (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier response, memory sticks containing this information will be sent out and each community can study the different methods to see which dust suppression method is best for their community. Once they have identified their choice, we can take the next steps with the communities from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 068 – 4(1): Medical Travel Policy

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow community members in Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I have continually voiced concerns about the Medical Travel Policy, as some members are deeply concerned. The reason for our concerns relate to the fact that some of our constituents may not be receiving the proper medical care, at least in my opinion, due to that particular policy.

I wish to ask the Minister of Health this question: to ensure members can review the policy at their leisure, can the latest Medical Travel Policy... ? Here I mean the latest iteration of this policy, including the criteria in this policy. Can the minister provide that information to this House prior to the end of this winter session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this policy is publicly available on the Internet, I have no problem with providing that information to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 069 – 4(1): Inuit Employment Plan Initiatives

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs now has responsibility for coordinating the government's Inuit Employment Plan initiatives.

According to the most recently tabled quarterly employment report for the GN, five interns were employed under the Sivuliktiksat Internship Program as of December 2012, which is that document

The department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities during the current fiscal year has been to "review the Sivuliktiksat Internship Program." Can the minister indicate what actions his department will be taking as a result of its review of the Sivuliktiksat Internship Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as the Premier, I expect all department heads to come up with an Inuit employment plan, which we will develop and have our training

initiatives within the plans. As members are well aware, this government is committed to increasing the number of Inuit working within the government, as per Article 23 within the land claims agreement.

Mr. Speaker, our intention is to put that in our 2014-15 business plan to include more participation and training programs within the Government of Nunavut to increase the numbers of Inuit employed within the government. Mr. Speaker, also there are some other programs developed. We have established a committee there to oversee and develop policy to increase the numbers within the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for his answer. I believe that it is important that internship and trainee opportunities be available to residents of communities outside of Iqaluit. Can the minister indicate what steps his department will take to provide internship opportunities at GN departments and Crown corporations that have offices in communities such as Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, when we speak about Government of Nunavut

employees, we are speaking about all employees, whether they be in decentralized communities or not, in headquarters. They will be a participant in any development that takes place, whether it is development training or more workshops to prepare them for higher level jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his answer. The government's overall rate of Inuit employment across all departments and Crown agencies currently stands at approximately 50 percent. It is important that we have a realistic and achievable timeline for achieving a fully representative workforce.

Can the minister indicate what the government's current timeline is for achieving an Inuit employment rate of 85 percent or better? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of employees within our territory. There are a lot of corporations, a lot of businesses and organizations. It's very difficult to put in a timeframe to reach 85 percent representative number of our population. It's not automatically when our high school students get educated that they want to work for the government. There are other places that they choose. It's

very difficult to put a timeframe on there.

As you know, in the last several years, we have been making efforts to try and increase that number, and this government will make every attempt to continually increase that percentage for Inuit to be employed within the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 070 – 4(1): School Guidance Counsellors

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Education some questions regarding his Minister's Statement earlier today.

In looking at some of the specific goals that this initiative, the Literacy 4 Life Initiative, is looking to accomplish, one of them is to "Ensure our high school graduates leave school with literacy skills that will enable them to pursue career and college aspirations." The way I understand it, Mr. Speaker, this is going to put a role for the guidance counsellors of each school.

Would the minister be able to answer the question whether every school in Nunavut has guidance counsellors available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. To date, there

are a number of guidance counsellors. There is one in Iqaluit and in Pond Inlet, Arviat, and Rankin Inlet, as well as Repulse Bay who work half-time. Those are the guidance counsellors who are working in the schools at the present time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pretty sure that this is my first supplementary.

With this expected role being added to the guidance counsellors... Maybe not added, but it already is part of their role. I think it is going to be key to support students and parents into choosing the appropriate courses to graduate with the highest level of literacy this initiative hopes to achieve.

Another goal is to "Support teachers to deliver high-quality learning experiences for our students by giving them high-quality professional development training in literacy acquisition." Would the minister be able to give me a little bit more detail on what type of training opportunities that they will be exploring for the teachers of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very good question from the member and I thank him. There is training that is provided to teachers on language and literacy called Literacy 4 Life. There are literacy experts that will be there to train

teachers primarily. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister also quoted, “students will experience a balance of direct and indirect instruction as they move from support to independence in word study, reading, and writing.” I’m not familiar with the terms of direct and indirect instruction. I just would like the minister to clarify that for my benefit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, we use computers in the schools. As well, the students in each school have computers with the help of instructors. Those are what we are talking about, direct and indirect. The teachers instruct and they use the computer to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members will note that the time for question period has expired and we will proceed to Item 7. (interpretation) Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to

Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Ms. Ugyuk.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. I would like to recognize an individual in the House, my uncle James Eetoolook, who is well known by people in Nunavut. I would like to recognize him, being my uncle, my family member, and I would like him to be recognized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the House. (interpretation ends) 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 and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. 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. Bill 2 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:01 and Committee resumed at 15:27*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut, as well as our television and radio audience. Welcome to your committee.

Yesterday, we weren't able to complete our review of the bill when progress was reported. At this time, we have to deal with Bill 2. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the capital main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Does the committee agree that we continue with our review of the capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2014-2015 – Nunavut Housing
Corporation – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to bring in the witnesses that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation had with him at the table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) for the record, please introduce your witnesses. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I say “good day” to my fellow Nunavummiut. With me here at this time to my left is our Chief Financial Officer, Heather Moffatt, and to my right is the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Lori Kimball. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. (interpretation) Ms. Kimball and Ms. Moffatt, welcome to the House. Moving on. Yesterday, we were on page L-3. I still have a list of people who wanted to ask questions. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to capital expenditures, and we were talking about that for 2014-15, the Modernization and Improvement program for Baker Lake is my first question. When would it actually start? Will it start this summer? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for asking that question. In regard to your question as to when, I'll get Ms. Kimball to respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically, it starts early in the new fiscal year. We will work with our LHOs to prepare tenders for the materials component of the supply. Following that, have separate tenders for the labour portion of the material. Often some projects will be two years, so we may well be tendering some labour portions relative to some material supplies that would have arrived last year. Some projects span two years, and in some projects we're able to complete in the same year. It really depends on the sealift cycles for the individual communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I raised that question is because as noted there was a tabled document in the House on March 12, which showed us the planned construction, land acquisition and development for public housing. I don't see my community of Baker Lake in that list. Will this document be revised? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Its two different things: there is one program where new buildings will be built; and then there's M&I where there is maintenance and improvements. With M&I, has nothing to do with new building construction,

it's a program on its own. I hope that makes sense. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his comment. In reviewing the capital, I guess I will change gears here. Private homeownership should benefit long-term residents. Will the Nunavut Housing Corporation review the threshold so that we help a greater number of homeowners within the territory to alleviate the wait list of people on public housing? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my fellow MLA for the question. You are asking about private homeownership. We have many responsibilities in my department and there are people who are just starting to get into public housing, and then there's also people coming out of public housing. We're always looking to see how we can alleviate the lack of social housing. We've been reviewing what kind of planning has been done about it.

I would like Ms. Kimball to explain that further. I would like to hand it over to her, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They mentioned before, when looking at the income levels of our existing public housing tenants, there is very few that make enough money that

could be viable as homeowners. In the past, we've seen, there was a major push, many years ago, under the NWT days and also in the early Nunavut days, to push people into homeownership and we've seen quite a number of quick claims resulting from that where people were unsuccessful as homeowners. So we want to be very careful. We do want to encourage homeownership but we want to make sure that they will be successful as homeowners.

Right now, one of the challenges that we have identified in our Government of Nunavut long-term comprehensive housing strategy, is that, we have public housing and then you have private homeownership and if you look in Iqaluit, homes start at \$400,000 to \$500,000 and if you are going from public housing to this other extreme. So one of the things we want to do is develop other affordable housing options, that are mid-tier, that would be targeted for people that are in a middle-income range, something between, you know, \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year to \$100,000 a year, that range that is not quite attainable for homeownership, but something other than public housing and we are looking at various options for that. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In looking at the capital estimates, homeownership programs from 2011 to now have remained at the same level and when you look at one particular unit costing \$400,000, as noted yesterday, as mentioned yesterday, with that capital estimates remaining at the same level,

how does the Nunavut Housing Corporation see it accommodating homeowners? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. I don't want to just guess because it is a very good question. I would like to get Ms. Kimball to respond to that, if it is okay with you, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we are doing is we are relooking at the income threshold, especially for our Down Payment Assistance program. That is something that is currently under review and we do recognize, as we stated yesterday, \$125,000 as the maximum income threshold.

If you are only making \$125,000 and going for a \$500,000 home, you probably shouldn't be putting yourself in that position because it's not financially viable. So, we are looking at the income threshold and that is something we hope to have reviewed shortly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question. You have not increased the capital budget for capital assets. The same amount has been budgeted for 2013-14. My question is, all the prices are going up every where.

Does that affect as to how many homes can be built per year? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. I don't quite understand the member's question. What exactly is he referring to when he mentions housing or future construction of housing? Can he please elaborate further for clarification? Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. (interpretation) Mr. Mikkungwak, please clarify.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if I ask in English.

Each and every year, there are all kinds of cost increases. My question here is: with the incremental costs that happen each and every year or every couple of years and with the capital estimates remaining at the same level, does that impact the number of units constructed when, as mentioned yesterday, we have \$400,000 per unit? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Does that clarify the question? (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for asking a good question. Mr. Chairman, I would like Ms. Kimball to provide a proper response. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the homeownership programs, we actually don't have a program that specifically targets new home construction. Our down-payment assistance program just provides 7.5 percent towards a home being purchased, which can be an existing home already in place in the market or it can be a new home being constructed.

Definitely cost increases do impact the cost affordability of housing units, but it's not really something that we track in terms of our homeownership programs, tracking the construction of new privately held homes. It's something that we have identified in our strategy that we do want to work on, coordinating with other stakeholders to gather that information and main those statistics, but at this point, the housing corporation does not have that information on the private homeownership market. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. A follow-up to that, my question would be also: when we're reviewing capital estimates, does the Nunavut Housing Corporation keep in touch or keep discussing the situation regarding the CMHC funding? Considering that it has remained at the same level of funding, is there room for an increase or has that remained or will that remain the same for a number of years yet? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much. If I understood his question, the NHC has an internal funding program specific to private home ownership or even for the housing association public rental units.

This is particular to retrofits of private homes, or if it is a local housing public unit. What I can respond to is this. If the budget was to be increased as per his question, it would have to be thoroughly reviewed to assess the best options. We will look at trying to make improvements to the program, but currently the way it is setup is primarily to fund renovations if it is a public rental unit or in the case of private homes, the Homeownership Assistance Program. In looking at these factors, the figure is based on past expenditures and figures. That is the reason for this amount, if my response was understandable. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My additional question is reference to the homeownership program. Considering the fact that the capital estimates have remained at the same level from 2011 to now, how does that impact the possibility of affordable private homeownership? Thank you.

Chairman: Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member. I would like to defer this question to Ms. Kimball. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the statistics for the number of approved applications for various homeownership programs, some assist with maintenance of a home, some assist with the acquisition of the home. Last year in 2012-13, we had 443 approved applications. In 2013-14 up until the end of January, we had 384. We still have another month or so to process, so we will have slightly fewer spending the same budget, which probably is reflecting different costs.

Again, we are reviewing the threshold for the funding per applicant for the different programs. We may be making some changes. We are reviewing all of our homeownership programs at this time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In reviewing the substantiation sheets for the capital estimates, something that really caught my eye was from 2012-13, and then you go to 2013-14, when you're seeing that, one fiscal year there has been in a drastic increase in the capital estimates regarding staff housing versus the homeownership programs, which have remained at the same level. What is the reasoning there? Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question.

Regarding your question, it has an impact on the public housing that is operated under the Nunavut Housing Corporation through the housing authorities. There has been increase from \$8 million to \$10 million. It has been increased by \$2 million. I don't quite understand it when you're referring to decreasing the amount.

I would like to ask the member if he could re-phrase his question. What is decreasing? Whether it's for some programs in homeownership, or in some other type of program? Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the minister. My question was in reference to staff housing. Looking at the substantiation sheets, when you look at staff housing in capital estimates, in 2012-13, it went from \$2,750,000 and then it took a drastic hike from the fiscal year 2013-14 to \$5 million versus the homeownership programs. I guess my question here is: in the interest of the long-term residents, what is the reasoning for the substantial difference? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): I believe I understand your question now. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for clarifying his answer. There are two separate programs that you asked about in a singular question, so to clarify the matter, there is the homeownership program as well as other assistance funds he melded into one overarching question, so at the

discretion of the chairperson, I would ask the Ms. Kimball be allowed to explain it properly with your permission, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuksuk. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the time that the staff housing budget was dramatically increased, there was also a corresponding increase in the government's support of the construction of public housing. In the past, we were receiving no funding at all from the GN for the construction of new units. When the increase was done to the staff housing, it was also supported with a public housing increase of \$8 million.

Fundamentally, the issue in Nunavut is there are not enough houses for the number of people who need houses, whether that be staff, whether that be our public housing tenants, so the focus was on the construction of new units. At present, our homeownership programs provide support to acquire existing homes and acquire homes that people are able to fund new construction for, but the homeownership programs really aren't driving the construction of new dwellings at this point and that is part of the strategy document that we have developed because we need to do some more targeted homeownership to incense the construction of new homes. Fundamentally, we need more dwellings constructed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next

question refers back to the capital estimates again regarding homeownership programs. Will the Nunavut Housing Corporation consider...? At the very beginning when Nunavut became a territory, there was the HAP program. Will that be taken into consideration again, seeing that the funding level has remained the same for capital estimates, to accommodate more long-term residents within the territory and to maybe cut down the waitlist for homes? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This question related to the past HAP program, since you raised that question about past programs is that in hindsight, it was exceedingly more expensive to build the HAP homeownership program.

The NHC was aware of the higher costs and that included most of the public at large. Due to these reasons, and the exorbitant costs, they start looking at alternatives to try to benefit more residents who were interested in homeownership through other programs, such as purchasing an older unit or an existing building requiring renovation only where it could become a private home.

The alternatives became more of a focus, especially better and more effective usage of our limited funds. There was a push to get more bangs for our bucks, and with that being the case, that is why that program was abandoned. However, if I didn't adequately answer his question, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the question be referred to Ms. Kimball

if the member wants a more detailed answer. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the homeownership budget for \$4.616 million in total, we have to be very careful about how we distribute that and help as many people as we can maintain their homes that have homes, as well as help as many as we can to achieve a home. What we found is programs such as HAP and MAP required a huge amount of resources for one client. So there are difficulties if you want to spread the wealth, so to speak, across to as many clients that can access these programs.

We will be looking at our homeownership programs through our long-term strategy to see if there are other things we can do, but something like those programs in the past. With the current price of housing, I'm not sure that would be financially feasible at this point. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his official for their responses. In reviewing the substantiation sheets regarding capital estimates, my question here now is when we look at public housing, there is public housing funding for construction of new units. You also have M&I funding under capital.

This homeownership program funding under the capital estimates, is that

directly to construction of new private homes? Or does that take into consideration of other things? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'm not making myself clear regarding homeownership programs. For clarity, it's not to be used for construction of a new home. I defer this question to Ms. Kimball, because I don't think I'm coming across. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuksuk. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The homeownership programs that we have right now are really two streams. One is for repair and preventative maintenance programs, so basically, to support existing homeowners and make sure the dwellings that exist in Nunavut stay viable, and that we don't lose buildings. We want to make sure we're helping homeowners that can't afford to maintain their own homes and keeping those units usable because of the extreme shortage.

In addition to that, we do have the down-payment assistance program, which is really the only thing that would touch on new construction, potentially. It's really that we provide 7.5 percent towards the down payment, we do require the client to pay 2.5 percent for a total 10 percent down payment. That 10 percent down payment can be used to purchase an existing home, or they can coordinate the contractor and have something built

and then use that 10 percent down to start a mortgage on a new home.

So the only way this would incite new construction is if they're working with the contractor and putting the 10 percent down on a new home. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the minister and his official for the answer. Thank you very much for that answer. It clarified the funding in reference to the homeownership program.

My next question here is in reference to the substantiation sheets under capital estimates. Fire damage replacement, I see drastic change in the amount. I see the drastic draw up. My question here is: fire damage replacement, is that funding towards homeownership, public housing, or staff housing? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question. It's not for private homes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. The next on the list. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to touch on something that my colleague from Baker Lake mentioned, is the modernization and improvement budget. For Iqaluit it is \$648,000. I assume this is just for the actual labour

and materials for the projects and that other core funding for the Iqaluit Housing Association is done separately.

But, in your discussions with the Iqaluit Housing Association, are they comfortable with the amount of funding that they are receiving? During my campaign I saw a number of residences, that to me, are in dire need of retrofitting, to put it mildly and I didn't see any, and I still haven't seen any construction, that I have noticed, going on in majority of those residences.

So, with your discussions with IHA, is this funding sufficient to meet the demand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking the question. I know that NHT has been working with the Iqaluit Housing Authority. Whether the funding was approved for homeownership program, I have not discussed this matter, so I will have Ms. Kimball respond to that question, if you allow me, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuksuk. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through our condition rating system, we have identified that Iqaluit is actually one of the lowest condition ratings in the territory, in terms of the condition of the housing units in our public housing stock.

In consultation, as far as I understand, our issues have been more around getting affordable contractor work done, especially with the other opportunities that contractors have in the community.

It is one community where I have seen weather stripping quotes for \$5,000, so that creates some challenges to contract out some of this work. As far as I understand it, budget is not the factor. It's really about coordinating and getting the work done. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you for that answer, Minister and Ms. Kimball. So, what you're saying is that, sorry, let me rephrase that. With the current agreement with the IHA, from what I understand, they have a number of maintenance staff available to them to do some of this work, outside of the contract basis. How do you find the fiscal and employment capacity to be able to meet the demand to renovate some of these homes, to make them a little bit more liveable? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for asking the question. If you will allow me, Mr. Chairman, I would like Ms. Kimball to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have our technical folks in our district office working closely with the IHA/LHO, to try to come up with different alternatives as to how we can address that situation. It is something that we are looking at and we are hopeful that we can find a solution to get some of that work done. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the human capacity issue at IHA, I was very surprised to receive a letter a little over two months ago, which I believe the minister received a copy of as well, of the resignation of one of the board members, basically, on principle that he did not agree with the action of having to lay off four of their employees who deal with these maintenance issues, of which there is a dire need in this community. Could the minister comment on that decision? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Kuksuk. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: The way that we fund our LHOs is it's a formula funding model based on the number of units. Our funding formula provides for so many staff members based on the number of units. We're not directly involved with the LHOs in terms of the actual staffing that they have. I'm not familiar with the details of this circumstance.

I know that there have been some concerns that Iqaluit Housing was running into a deficit situation. I have expressed willingness to review the funding formula structure with IHA

because they are the largest community in terms of the number of housing units far exceeding other communities that we have. I have expressed that we are looking at... There may be some reasons and rationales to change some things with the funding formula for IHA.

We were not directly involved in their management decision to lay off four employees. We have said that we're willing to talk about their funding formula. We were not directly involved in that situation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. If I can ask the members to please restrict their questions to the capital plan. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Noted, Mr. Chairman, and I realize that I was skirting the line pretty closely.

In my opinion, it does have some impact on the capital plan because I want to make sure that these dollars are being expended to the maximum effect to benefit the residents of Iqaluit, specifically the Tasiluk riding that I represent.

I appreciate the answer and encourage the minister and his staff to continually communicate with IHA to address some of the needs; I know that we will never meet all of the needs, but to address some of the immediate needs to house our residents in a respectable manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Taima*.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Next on my list, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking for

clarification on a tabled document from yesterday that the minister tabled. In that document, it says 2014-15 construction, Iqaluit, one ten-plex; Arviat, one five-plex; and Sanikiluaq, one five-plex. Can the minister confirm that this is going to be tendered, awarded, and constructed this coming summer and fall? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. The project is ready to proceed, but the only obstacles are related to the sites and lot availability so if they are completed it will go ahead. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if the translation didn't come across right, but I don't think I heard the answer I was asking for.

Will this construction happen this summer for these units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This coming summer, the communities of Nunavut that have identified that they will be constructing units in those communities, but in some communities. Since it's the responsibility of community government, if the lots should be approved and if they're ready,

then the units can be constructed this summer. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are now in March, and if any construction is going to happen this year, we need to have tenders issued soon so that it can be awarded and giving contractors time to meet sealift deadlines.

Has the Nunavut Housing Corporation confirmed that there are lots available in Sanikiluaq, Arviat, and Iqaluit for this upcoming construction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): From what I understand, yes. I will defer that question to Ms. Kimball so that she can respond in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go through each community in detail. In Iqaluit, we are having some challenges confirming lot availability. We do have a back-up plan as a worst case to try to do two senior's four-plexes, for a total of eight units in Iqaluit. We are still hopeful to get ten units. In Iqaluit we are fortunate to have a longer sealift schedule than other communities, so we are comfortable that we still have time to work that through.

Arviat, potentially, there could be some challenges there with the timing of the

land. However, we're still working with the hamlet on that.

In terms of Sanikiluaq, it's my understanding, based on the conversation that I had with my COO just this morning, that we should be good to go in Sanikiluaq. We're waiting for final confirmation on that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think most of my questions were asked by my colleagues, but I have one. Back in 2009-10, there was a housing needs survey done, and Gjoa Haven was one of the communities that they suggested needed housing. Last year and this year, we are not getting any numbers. I am wondering how these are allocated to the communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very clear and understandable question. Although I will be able to respond to some of his questions, but this has been going on for quite some time on where the houses are going to allocate housing evenly to the communities.

The member is asking why they are not constructing units in his home community. The Nunavut Housing Corporation, along with the local housing authorities, they work together to make sure that we build units in the most needy communities.

Mr. Chairman, if the member wants supplementary response, I will ask if I can have my officials respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister. Mr. Akoak, (interpretation ends) did he respond to your question? Are you satisfied now?

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going another route, we have, I guess, homeowners that are losing their houses, as Mr. Hickes and Mikkungwak mentioned earlier. Is there any way that your department can take over the units and make them useful in down-payment programs? That's my question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akoak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. To ensure that your question is properly answered, I would like to refer the member's question to Ms. Kimball. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It really depends on the circumstances. In some cases, the homeowner may have a mortgage with Nunavut Housing Corporation, in which case, we do have a mechanism where we can do something called a quick claim, where the client transfers the unit back to us.

If we don't have a mortgage interest, then it's a little trickier, in terms of whether or not we can just acquire the

unit. Typically, there is a bank interest in the property and it depends on the extent of that bank interest in the property, what the willingness is of the bank to do something.

This is partly why we do have the homeownership programs that we do have, that we do offer, to make sure that clients are able to access things like home repair, emergency repairs, so that they can keep the unit as in good condition as possible so that it does retain its value, so that we can have options, should unfortunate situations arise, where the clients are not able to maintain their mortgage payments with a third-party bank.

In some cases, we have the banks approach us to take over when a client is getting foreclosed and we have in some cases acquired the unit. We usually do a review to make sure that between what we have to pay the bank to acquire the unit and the repairs and maintenance required on the unit, that it makes economic sense to do so.

In some cases, if the unit has had freeze-ups or has had other major maintenance issues, and if there is a substantial amount of debt into the bank, it may not make economic sense to do that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, this is just a comment. Since we are always short of houses, and I think that is a good way to go, if a client loses a house we could turn it over to the community or to the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I think that was just a comment, Mr. Akoak. Continuing on, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is: what is the percentage cost between labour and material for public housing being built? Just an average, not counting the land. Out of the 100 percent of a complete house, what percentage is material and what is labour? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different things, such as the construction and the material. Maybe I will get Ms. Kimball to respond to those different questions, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you are talking about material, one of the key components of the material cost is the shipping. Shipping can vary drastically depending on which community you are shipping to.

I can tell you, under Canada's Economic Action Plan where we built the single-family dwellings using our structural insulated panels, the shipping cost varied between \$30,000 per unit per community to as much as \$90,000 per unit in a community. To give you a fixed rate, I can't do that because of the differences in the shipping. I don't have that information to share generally across Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that the shipping of the SIP units, which are bulky, would be really expensive. I'm aware of that. That was, I believe, just a one-time project to see how it worked. Do you have the figures for stick-built, what the material is and what the labour is? I know that now, you have ship, supply, and erect, but you must have figures somewhere in there that tells you, "The cost of building a house, excluding land, is labour is 40 percent and material is 60 percent," just an average figure. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question and I don't want to make a guess, so I'll hand it over to Ms. Kimball to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, even with our five-plex design that we saw under structural insulated panels, which was a stick-built design, we saw shipping be up to three times more in one community versus another. For our SSE tenders, we did do detailed financial analyses, but we were looking at the whole cost, including land, shipping, and all of those components. I'm sorry I don't have the details with me. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much for allowing me to ask another question. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This matter is also an issue in our community and I am well aware that Baker Lake has numerous elders and some of the elders have physical disabilities. I wonder where this would fall under, under the private home category, or under the LHO public housing units in terms of the funds used for providing assistance or does that come out of both of these categories. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The question he asked is confusing so could I ask him to rephrase or clarify his question? I seem to understand the gist of it, but if I misunderstood I would prefer if he clarified his question. Is he asking about elders' centres in the communities as they exist in other communities? Is that what he meant? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please clarify your question, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Considering the fact that there are a lot of senior citizens within my community and some of whom are homeowners, when we look at the substation sheet and that figure has remained the same, does that take into consideration if there are any renovations that may be needed by the senior citizens who are private homeowners? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Now his question is crystal-clear. With respect to renovations or retrofits, there are separate funds and that is clear. Some are specific to elderly citizens but there is a separate category for them as it stands. If I can, I would ask that the question be referred to Ms. Kimball so she may provide a clear answer to my colleague's question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand the question correctly, if you're referring to modifications for seniors, things like hand rails, and those types of things, seniors can apply through our regular Home Repair program. They can also apply through our targeted Senior Citizen's Home Repair program to access funding for those types of renovations to make their homes a little more senior-friendly. Similarly, people with disabilities that are private homeowners could do the same thing, in terms of accessing repair funds for those types of renovations. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his official for answering that question. A follow-up to that question is: if a senior citizen applies for that repair, and looking at the substantiation sheets under capital estimates, would that fall

under the homeownership program or M&I retrofit? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that he asked about M&I is directed to public housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get some clarification. The houses that are going to be built for staff housing and public housing, is there a price difference between the two? Do they cost the same to build one unit? I hope you can understand me. That is my first question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): I understand the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The public housing and staff housing, I haven't seen the difference between public housing and homeownership. I will get Ms. Kimball to respond more clearly to the member. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, NHC does not do any construction for homeownership. We only do construction for staff and public housing. It's the same design that

we would use. If we're doing a five-plex, it's usually the same design, whether that's a staff housing unit or a public housing unit. For the upcoming year, we'll be doing a mix of ten-plexes, five-plexes, and duplexes. The five-plexes this year will be different than in the past. We are getting a new design prepared to ensure that we're being as economical as possible in our construction model. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Also in public housing, a review was done in May 2013 by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, saying that they would build 210 houses with the \$100 million received from the federal government. However, I also noted that the day before yesterday on March 11, the minister made an announcement in this House about the current status of the \$100 million allocation provided by the federal government. He also highlighted the fact that by summer of 2015, there would be an additional 213 units completed. Where exactly are the three extra units going to be constructed? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking that question. The units totalling 213 to be constructed, as per your question about the three extra units and where they originated from is that originally Iqaluit was supposed to receive a certain

number and these three units have been added to complete the amount of units Iqaluit was to receive.

However, when they were reviewing the tenders for the construction projects in Iqaluit for the units to be built here, they found that the costs of the bids meant that we could build an extra three units without using any additional funds. That is where the three units were added, provided that my response was clear. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Moving on. According to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion. I will again recognize Ms. Angnakak, although she has already asked a question.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to talk about what kind of strategy the Nunavut Housing Corporation has to address the great number of houses that have broken windows. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague. With respect to window related issues, I have never been queried about that issue before, so in order to have the correct response, I would ask that Ms. Kimball be allowed to answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of a specific strategy

to replace them, we do try to replace them as part of our M&I and one-offs as part of the LHO maintenance budget. We have recognized that that's a concern in terms of the breakage of windows. As part of this year's construction under the \$100 million, we have set a specification for a different style of window that is supposed to be much more break-resistant and we will see how that goes. We will be monitoring the cost effectiveness of the increased cost up front for those windows versus the savings on breakage. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Before I recognize Angnakak, please be reminded that if you have any electronics, (interpretation) put them on silent mode, as I just heard someone's phone ringing. Please keep your phones and other electronic devices on silent mode. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering: with the different type of window, does that represent or create any safety issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you. The glass that we're using is actually referred to as hurricane glass, so if it does break, it's like windshield; it will stay together so that the whole thing can be replaced. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. (interpretation ends) Please be reminded that we are on the capital estimates and try and stay within. Please refer to line items, if you can refer to

those. (interpretation) Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Switching gears. What kind of demand is there for public housing units that are built specifically meet of those with physical disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That is a great question. There are many needs in the communities. I would like to elaborate on the different needs for different types of homes and houses in the communities.

If I understand your question correctly, if we know of a percentage of how many is need. Mr. Chairman, if you can agree to let Ms. Kimball respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the implementation of the new rent scale system, we do have great insights in terms of seniors in our building. We're not currently tracking the needs of people with disabilities, but we have actually identified that as something that we do want to implement in going forward. Of course, with the software we have to make sure that we're adhering to privacy protection rules. It is in our intention to start tracking that; that is something that we want to do.

If a client comes forward and they do need a home that's suitable for a

disability, we do usually make accommodations through our M&I funding to do any retrofits that may be required. We also have some units that are already configured so that if someone needed it and no longer needs that, we will switch people around to make better use of the units we do have available. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your answer kind of leads me into my next question. When we're talking about accessing programs for homeowners, can you access the same program more than once in one year, or more than once in two years? Is there a stipulation on how many times one can access a program and how much? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Borderline. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to respond to that, please.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) You may proceed, Ms. Kimball.

Ms. Kimball: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are limits on each of our different programs, and they vary by program in terms of how frequently you can access them. For the most part, the larger program it is only once every 10 or 15 years. That is something too that we will be looking at as we do the review of our homeownership program. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Using my discretion as Chairman, I will give Mr. Savikataaq a third opportunity to speak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Ms. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for your gracious decision.

>> *Laughter*

Mine is not a question, it is just a comment. I believe in being proactive for Arviat and my constituents. When the minister said that they weren't sure about land availability for the five-plex in Arviat. I quickly left and called the hamlet. The land is there, and it's available. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's great news. It would be great if all of the communities could be accommodating like that, so I'm glad to hear that you checked into it. However, some of the other communities are not as easy, in regard to land lots. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let us proceed. We are on L-3 in English, Inuktitut Ri-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$30,230,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Get back to page L-2 in English, Ri-2 in

Inuktitut. Department Summary.
Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mission.
Total Capital Expenditures.
\$30,230,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that we are concluded with the Department of Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you MLAs and Hon. Ministers. As we are starting to adjourn, if you have any closing remarks, I will give you that opportunity. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and thank you to my colleagues, my fellow MLAs here for asking those great questions, yesterday and today. Please don't worry. From our discussions of today and yesterday, all those questions that we received and the replies that we gave you, have all been documented by my officials here with Ms. Moffett and Ms. Kimball.

They will take care of them properly. That's all I would like to say. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Minister. Thank you for being able to appear here. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the witnesses from the House and the Hon. Minister can return to his seat. We will be dealing with the Department of Education and while we settle the documents, we will take a five-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:43 and resumed at 16:51

Chairman (interpretation): Good afternoon. As we get ready to reconvene our meeting, we have an update to provide to our members.

As you and Nunavummiut are all aware, there was a search underway with the Hall Beach and Igloolik SAR teams searching for a lost hunter. We have been provided great news just now. He has been found alive and well.

>>Applause

That is, indeed, great news and I wanted all Nunavummiut to hear this news so we all know about the result. Again, the SAR teams are very competent and extremely capable, so we thank everyone on these SAR teams.

As we move on, we are set to review the capital estimates of the Department of Education. At this time, I would like Minister Quassa to make his opening remarks if he has any comments. Minister Quassa, you may proceed.

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2014-2015 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also share in the joy provided by the update on the successful search.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to discuss the proposed 2014-15 Department of Education's capital budget. Capital projects are considered to be any improvement increasing the value and life expectancy of a building.

Our government has many capital priorities in the area of education. There are 43 schools across Nunavut, which represent a substantial capital investment in educational infrastructure in Nunavut. Currently we have 8,677 students from kindergarten to grade 12; 1,506 in the Kitikmeot, 3,033 in the Kivalliq, and 4,138 in the Baffin.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's proposed capital budget for 2014-15 is \$23,710,000. The majority of the \$23.7 million will be allocated to a number of existing projects. We have one new project proposed for the 2014-15 fiscal year, Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure. In our 43 schools, there are approximately 6,000 Internet-capable devices that require regular replacement to ensure they are capable of working with updated software. In this year's budget, we have allocated approximately \$800,000 for this initiative.

(interpretation ends) We believe children begin learning long before they start school. The Department of Education is committed to providing our children with every opportunity to learn, which means providing dedicated space for early childhood programs in any renovated or new education facility. Early childhood programs include preschool programs, full-time daycare, language nests, Aboriginal Head Start programs, and parents and tots programs. (interpretation) I hope that I said it right.

Having a daycare in our schools gives our young parents the support they need to continue their studies, knowing their children are in a safe environment providing quality care and support for

early childhood development. We have childhood programs planned for Arviat, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, and Repulse Bay.

Mr. Chairman, ongoing education capital projects for the 2014-15 fiscal year include:

- Continued work on the design of the new middle school in Arviat, with a budget of \$200,000.
- Continued work on the detailed planning and design for the new middle school in Baker Lake, with a budget of \$1.5 million.
- Renovation of the Qiqirtaq School in Gjoa Haven will continue, with a budget of \$6 million.
- Continued work on the design for the new Igloolik high school, with a budget of \$1 million.
- The Inuksuk High School renovation project is now complete and following standard practice, we have budgeted \$100,000 for the warrantee year.
- The new high school project in Repulse Bay will go to tender, with a budget of \$8 million.

Mr. Chairman, my department also has a minor capital budget. This funding allows for a variety of small or minor capital projects across the territory. We have budgeted \$700,000 to cover the repairs, renovations, and upgrades approved under the minor capital budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

(interpretation ends) Our minor capital projects are primarily health and safety projects not identified in the capital planning process. These projects are also approved by the deputy minister.

Over the past few years, my department has been faced with emergency and urgent situations requiring immediate attention. To help curb these reactionary measures, we initiated a program to assess our schools beginning in 2010-11. This assessment addressed special needs and the overall building condition of our schools. All of our schools have now been assessed.

(interpretation) We continue to budget for ongoing special needs requirements to ensure our students with special needs are able to access our schools. This year, we have budgeted \$100,000 for this initiative.

(interpretation ends) We have budgeted \$5 million for the ongoing lifecycle repair initiative for our 43 schools in 2014-15. Lifecycle items are the major components of a building, such as the foundations, boilers, generators, roofing, siding, flooring, wall finishes, windows, and air handling units, which need periodic replacement based on the planned lifespan for each building component. With the assistance of the Department of Community and Government Services, this initiative allows us to prioritize repairs or replacement within our schools. Projects in this category are reviewed and approved by the deputy minister.

Lifecycle projects for 2013-14 included:

- Installation of a generator at the Qarmartalik School in Resolute Bay, \$415,000;
- Floor repairs to the Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School in Baker Lake, \$75,000;

- Foundation repairs to the Leo Ussak School in Rankin Inlet, \$295,000;
- Roof replacement and required mould remediation at Quluuq School in Clyde River, \$1.1 million;
- Special needs project at Ataguttaluk High School in Igloodik, \$450,000;
- Window replacement/boiler replacement/pipe repair at Nuiyak School in Sanikiluaq, \$300,000;
- Structural repairs to the Simon Alaittuq Ford Middle School in Rankin Inlet, \$211,000;
- Heating system repair at Umimmak School in Grise Fiord, \$170,000;
- Standby generator replacement for both schools in Kugluktuk, \$450,000;
- School siding replacement to the Joamie School here in Iqaluit, \$500,000;
- Boiler repair to the Kugluktuk High School, \$90,000.

Mr. Chairman, now that the assessments are complete, my department has identified action items for repair and/or upgrades for each school. We have budgeted \$125,000 for this work and, together with Community and Government Services, we will address the action items identified.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, we gather information from hamlets, district education authorities, communities, schools, and the Department of Community and Government Services to

develop, plan, and manage our capital priorities.

Through our comprehensive facilities database, we are able to analyze school utilization (number of students vs. the school's capacity) and building condition, which is then linked to our program space needs, which will give us an indication of future capital requirements.

On an annual basis, we review requests for school buses and departmental vehicles, and for the 2014-15 fiscal year, we have budgeted \$185,000.

I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussion as we review the Department of Education's capital budget for 2014-15. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. (interpretation) Before we ask questions, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have witnesses that I would like to bring to the table; my Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik, and her official.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Quassa, for the record, please introduce

your witnesses. (interpretation ends)
Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce the individual to my right, my Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik, who is probably well known in this House, and another person who is also well known is the capital planner for the Department of Education, Barry Cornthwaite, who is on my left. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. (interpretation) Ms. Okpik and Mr. Cornthwaite, welcome to the Committee of the Whole. Opening comments of the Regular Members' Caucus, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's capital estimates for 2014-15 include six community-specific projects which are ongoing from capital plans of previous fiscal years and six projects which will be allocated to meet the department's Nunavut-wide capital needs during 2014-15.

Mr. Chairman, members have noted that the final cost estimates for constructing new schools can vary considerably from year to year and from community to community. While members recognize that such factors as changes to building codes, differing costs for land development and transportation of materials in different communities, and

the reliance on a competitive bidding process make it difficult to control budgets from year to year. However, members encourage the minister and his officials to make every effort to mitigate costs at all steps of each project with an emphasis on getting the best value for money spent.

Mr. Chairman, members also noted that delays in construction can often lead to budget overruns and encourage the minister to work with his officials to ensure that once projects are initiated, they keep on track and on schedule.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's appearance before the Regular Members' Caucus to discuss his department's draft capital estimates for 2014-15, a number of commitments were made to provide copies of assessments and business cases for upcoming projects such as those being considered under the Department of Community and Government Services' Initiation Envelope funding. Members look forward to receiving copies of the relevant documentation in the near future.

Mr. Chairman, members are in full support of all-new schools including space for delivering early childhood education programs. However, in some communities, especially those which will not see a new school for some time, there continues to be a great need for daycare spaces. Members encourage the minister to give full consideration to ensuring that adequate spaces are available in all communities as it is clear that education begins well before children enter the school system.

Mr. Chairman, it has also been noted that while most new schools will be equipped with the latest in computer technology for course delivery and access to the Internet, older schools will also need updated equipment as the technology evolves. Members are, therefore, pleased to support the Department of Education's proposal to invest in IT infrastructure for schools across Nunavut and to replace obsolete equipment.

Mr. Chairman, some concern was expressed that the older, surplus equipment will be disposed of in the most efficient manner possible and members noted that the Department of Community and Government Services will play a significant role in this process.

Mr. Chairman, members have noted that school busing services are delivered across Nunavut under many different configurations with private contractors providing the services in some communities while the Department of Education provides the services directly in others. While members appreciated receiving information about the fleet of school buses owned by the Department of Education, it was recommended that the list be revised and updated on a regular basis as vehicles are decommissioned.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2014-15 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Well read. (interpretation) Before we move on to general comments, you now remember the two main rules that we follow, so I won't be stating them because I have been referring to them every day. If there any general comments or questions to the minister's opening comments, you now have the opportunity. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the minister read his (interpretation ends) opening remarks, (interpretation) regarding preschools, he stated that he believes that pre-school ought to be a prerequisite in the communities.

In Rankin Inlet, we know that the Leo Ussak School suffers from classroom shortages and that is why the pre-school was removed. What options would they have then, his department, in this case where they would have to try to find room for implementing the (interpretation ends) pre-school program (interpretation) as room would be required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, uh, I meant, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. For a moment there, a glimmer of pride emerged when you accidentally almost mistook me for the Speaker, but you ended up correcting yourself in time. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this moment, based on the member's question about the Leo Ussak School, I believe it is specific to that school and right now, it stands at 75 percent capacity.

As an example, our department uses the capacity rate in each school and how to determine the overall student capacity. This is the criteria used to make that determination, and with respect to that school capacity, we know that the Leo Ussak School stands at 75 percent capacity, and I hope I answered that part of his question.

However, I want my colleagues to understand that, as per my earlier statement, that the DEAs and schools are constantly being communicated with by our departmental officials especially space related matters or substantiation for requiring extra room. Currently, at that school to date, the number of students stands at 260 and the overall capacity of the school is set at 346 students. I certainly hope I provided an adequate response to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Quassa. (interpretation) Mr. Sammurtok, do you have another question? You're done. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments, you had mentioned that the Inuksuk High School Renovation Project is complete and that there's \$100,000 being budgeted for the warranty this year. Have there been any items identified that are going to require some of this immediate warranty work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am grateful for the very good questions that are posed and I also thank the member for

asking a good question. The issue he raised in his question revolves around the floor and specifically the (interpretation ends) floor seams. (interpretation) This is the purpose of those funds to work on the floor at the Inukshuk High School, hopefully that is understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, hon. minister. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also noticed in the lifecycle projects, the project included the siding replacement for the Joamie School here in Iqaluit at \$500,000. If memory serves me correctly, the school is not really that old. Has this type of siding been used in the past and is it the same style of siding or the same type of material being used to renovate the school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Inuksuk High School, when it was constructed, they put on wrong siding and because of that we need to change them. I am sorry, we are talking about Joamie School. I am talking about Joamie School, not Inuksuk High School. I hope that I responded to the member's question. They will be working on the new siding. I don't know the term in Inuktitut for siding. They will be constructing new siding. That's what the funding will be used for. Just for everyone to be aware, the work has been completed already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, for that response. I saw under the 2013-14, so I had assumed that it had been completed. I was mainly concerned that a different and more stable type of material had been used to renovate the project.

Also, in your opening comments on page 4, you talked about the ongoing lifecycle repair initiative and the partnership with the Department of Community and Government Services that allows the repair and replacement prioritization within the schools and infrastructure for the Department of Education.

Can the minister explain how this relationship works and how has the departments agreed upon the prioritization list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question. We need to have clear understanding about the issues. We work with the Department of Community and Government Services with the assessments and we try to make sure that there are no safety and health hazards and to make sure that the furnace is working properly and to make sure that the foundation is assessed properly.

As I stated earlier on, we work closely with the Department of Community and Government Services when we do assessments of the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Quassa. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That relationship with the Community and Government Services, how is that facilitated with the department. Is it utilizing the same facilities database that the Department of Education has initiated a few years back? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have the data. They already have a database within the Community and Government Services and they already have the database in their department that they use. I just wondered whether I responded to your question properly or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I may be mistaken, but if I recall correctly, there is a comprehensive database that was initiated by the Department of Education to keep track of any condition ratings of all the schools across the territory. Again, I may be mistaken, but I believe that it was over and above the database that was being collected with the Department of CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can get to make it clear and understandable, I would like my deputy minister to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the schools have a database and we have given them to CGS. We also have them in the computer. We use our computer when there is going to be school renovations. We looked at the database. We work with CGS.

We have heard back from CGS that 75 percent of those renovations have been completed, and they also have a plan in place. They have told us which schools will have to get those renovations done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Exciting. (interpretation ends) I am just wondering about your early childhood education component. Alec kind of talked about that, but can the minister inform us how many schools have the space available for the delivery of early childhood programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. We know that little children have to go to school earlier. At the

present time, there are 25 licensed daycares in the Department of Education's buildings, 25 licensed daycares. There are also 17 out of 25 that are in Nunavut schools. I have to say that we also had a collection of data in the new schools. In the new schools there will also be preschools. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Iqaluit has a high number of children on the waitlist for early childhood education, and also for after school programs. This is, as we all know, is due to the lack of availability of space. Often, I think, parents are waiting up to three years or longer.

What steps is the department doing to help alleviate the demand of early childhood education in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a good question. (interpretation ends) Right now, as it is, daycares are driven by societies. (interpretation) Most of the daycares have to be under society status. For example, in Igloolik, because they don't have a society, although the building is still available, they haven't been able to proceed with that initiative. Hopefully I responded to the member's question, I am unsure if I did. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. (interpretation) Let's remember that

we're dealing with the capital estimates. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you for that. I have a bunch of other questions. I'll wait until we get to the budget. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one quick question. Earlier, Mr. Hickes was talking about warranty work and a question came to mind about the school in Sanikiluaq that was completed a couple of years ago. I'm just wondering if all outstanding issues with the contractor with regard to warranty is now complete with that school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An excellent question, I will ask the person directly responsible for the capital estimates plans to provide an answer, if I could ask the chairman to allow Barry Cornthwaite to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, all warranty issues have not been taken care of. The Department of Community and Government Services is reviewing the warranty and outstanding issues at the Paatsaali School in Sanikiluaq. They are reporting to us on a regular basis and they are dealing with the issues. Some of them are siding issues, insulation issues,

and heating issues, and they are reviewing all the issues as we speak. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My first question is in regard to the opening comments made by the minister referring to page 5, “Floor repairs in Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School, Baker Lake, \$75,000.” Will that be sufficient funds? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is quite a good question. What I can respond with is this, Mr. Chairman: “No,” however that line item is only for the (interpretation ends) engineering or engineer. (interpretation) So this amount is specific to the engineer’s work, just so everyone knows that it isn’t for the actual repair or renovation but rather for the engineering phase of this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In light of all of the school attendance that’s occurring at the Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School, which I am very happy to see, my question here is: with the amount of traffic, when will the floor repairs be taken into consideration or when will the work begin? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He raised a good point with his question, as well as his comment about possible impacts to the floor which is understandable. Whenever facilities are being reviewed or inspected, the funds are just for that purpose as part of the planning process, just for the information of the member.

However, when working on repairs, the general practice is to work on one room at a time, or alternatively, the work commences upon the closure of the school at year-end during the summer break and that is the usual practice and I hope all members know that the work would be performed either in the summer or by working on one room at a time to alleviate the impacts. That is how I can respond to the member’s query, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, hon. minister. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. We can go to G-3 in the Department of Education. Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$23,710,000. Do you agree? Ms. Angnakak.

>> *Laughter*

Ms. Angnakak: I had my hand up a long time ago.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was very close. What criteria are used to determine if a community requires a new school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) I will allow it to go. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we use is according to the number of students. If they go beyond the percentage that we just talked about, when it reaches 85 percent of students in the school, then we start thinking about building a new school. We have to realize that we always consult with the communities and the DEAs and whether the school is older. Like I said, what we most use is if the 85 percent capacity is reached. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation) Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try this one and see what you feel about this line of questioning. How long does it take from the day that you identified that we're at 85 percent to the day that you actually see a new school built? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Let me ponder.

>>*Laughter*

Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. What we try to follow is that we use probably about five to six years that it takes to build a school. You have to do the planning. You have to have a planning stage, and then the design. After that has been completed, then

we'll start construction. It'll take about two years to construct, perhaps even three years. As well, the reason why we have to suspend is because there has to be a warranty that makes it take a little bit longer. It takes about five to six years approximately to get a new school.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, sometimes even after we have planned to build a new school, if there is an emergency that arises in Nunavut, then it is diverted to something else and then to start it again later. We have seen delays of the building of the school when another emergency comes up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Department of Education have a long-term strategy for school staff housing across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having staff housing is something that we work very hard on at the Department of Education. We are waiting for a comprehensive report from the Nunavut Housing Corporation on this matter and as people in education, we know that our teachers can attain home ownership and they need staff homes and we know that we have a general lack of staff houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Which community do you feel is suffering the most from that critical need for school staff housing? Which community is the worst off, I guess? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question and we all know, I can't exactly say which community, we need a lot. (interpretation ends) I can say its pretty well across the board, in every community. I just want to remind everybody, the whole members here that housing issue is the responsibility, of course, with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Let us proceed. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I believe we are in the capital estimates. (interpretation ends) I will refer back to the substantiation sheets for capital estimates. (interpretation) I know it is obvious that in Baker Lake, the school is in the design phase for the middle school. What I am asking is, while you are in this phase, when will the materials be brought in to Baker Lake? That is my question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Concerning the proposed new school for Baker Lake, right now, we are just going to be working on the design for 2014-15. That is what has been planned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, as well. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With that design and planning phase, if that is completed prior to the shipping season, will the department take into consideration of ordering the construction material before the following year? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question from my colleague. I can say that, if we can put the tender out, we expect... first of all, it has to get approved. We are expecting in 2015-16 to start construction. As I stated earlier, the tender has to be approved before we can move ahead. We're trying to expect that in 2015-16 that construction shall start. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Minister. Mr. Mikkungwak, do you have a supplementary? Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I bring this up is that I'm very happy to

see that there are a lot of school students attending. I see that with my very own eyes. We have the elementary school and the Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School right beside each other during lunch hours or after school. The reason why I'm asking is the design and planning stage; once that is completed, the construction material being brought in. I know that the construction of a new school takes so many years.

I see in the short run, in my opinion, is the safety issue regarding this. That's why I'm asking regarding the construction of the new middle school. The construction material, if that would be purchased and the design and planning phase takes a whole year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. I believe you're asking if the design and planning takes a whole year. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The approval is necessary as to what the design will look like. Every year they are approved on a piece by piece basis. We don't approve at whole bunch of them at the same time. So that's why we're trying to look at 2015-16 to start the construction. That will have to be approved as well. The expenditures will have to be approved as well. Each step will be done each year. Everything needs to go through approval. That's mainly why it sits like that.

After we get the approvals then the constructions costs come in. We would probably not have to wait a whole year after the design has been approved. I

hope that answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister something about 85 percent before planning a new school. And then he mentioned that Leo Ussak School is now at 75 percent. Are there any plans to build a new elementary school for Rankin Inlet because, as we're all aware, (interpretation) Rankin Inlet is growing fast, and the elementary school-aged students are increasing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question from the Member from Rankin Inlet North. In Rankin Inlet, there are three schools. Looking at those three schools, the Maani Ulujuk School is at 77 percent capacity and the Leo Ussak School is at 75 percent capacity. The third school's, the Simon Alaittuq Ford School, capacity currently stands at 51 percent.

In looking at these rates that exist in these schools, it seems some communities are more proactive by dividing up the student body, particularly in breaking up the grade levels. That is my perception, that Rankin Inlet has that discretion in their community, so based on these rates, we haven't identified the need for a new facility in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister.
Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Yes, I would prefer that this matter be taken into consideration, especially with a new (interpretation ends) mine opening up. (interpretation) With the new mine on the verge of opening, the population of Rankin Inlet will increase, so I take it that it is only when our community suffers from school space shortages, that this will be the only time you look at this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, Member Sammurtok. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Wherever communities have schools, there is a very thorough review as we need to be aware of these factors so we conduct these reviews.

Some factors considered are the population growth of the community, the student body, the growth of the student population and this usually occurs at an early stage where we look at these factors. Additionally, as an example we have continuous communications with the communities and to date, perhaps with respect to the schools.

We forecast the growth five years down the road, and as I mentioned earlier with respect to Rankin Inlet's schools, the Maani Ulujuk School currently sits at 77 percent capacity. (interpretation ends) Within five years (interpretation) we project it to sit at 83 percent then. With respect to the Leo Ussak School, the current capacity rate sits at 75 percent and we project in five years that it would move to 81 percent.

These are examples of factors that are taken into consideration in making projections for the school's future needs and this figure is used as the threshold so when any school reaches 85 percent capacity, it becomes obvious that a new school has to be built or alternatively an addition would have to added as an (interpretation ends) extension or addition. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, hon. minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Currently, at the Leo Ussak School, I believe that there are (interpretation ends) about 300 (interpretation) students in that school. (interpretation ends) Ten percent is 30. About 30 students (interpretation) If we were to add the preschool students who would have to be accommodated next year and the following year, that figure would rise to about 85 percent.

Perhaps our calculations are too different on this figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Maybe we should all use Mr. Hickes' calculator.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The numbers I have are listed in this order. At this time, the Leo Ussak School has 260 students enrolled and the Leo Ussak

School capacity is set at 346 students at a maximum.

As I stated just now, the number of students enrolled stands at 260 students. However, we should all be aware that even the figures announced here in the Legislative Assembly are continually reviewed. That is for your information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiiktauq*, hon. minister. (interpretation) Moving on. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question for the minister. Before that, I would like to thank him for providing the business case that I outlined in my opening remarks. I said there were still some awaiting but I have received mine. Thank you very much, Minister Quassa.

On that same project that I asked for the business case for, the Ecole les Trois Soleils French School in Iqaluit. I noticed with some pleasure to see that in the substantiation documentation that this French school addition may be eligible for third-party funding. Can the minister update on how that process is working its way through the bureaucracy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. We have to have a discussion with the Department of Canadian Heritage. We are at the engagement stage at this point regarding the school. I'll leave it at that for now. I don't know whether I responded to your

question, but feel free to make an addendum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Did any one of your officials want to make an addendum? Thank you. Going ahead. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please stop me if I'm out of line. Thank you. Renovations to the Gjoa Haven schools has been underway since 2004-05, beginning with renovations with Quqshuun Elementary School as Phase I, and then extending to Qiqirtaq High School as Phase II. The Gjoa Haven Phase II project has been delayed a number of times but construction is scheduled to continue through 2014-15 to 2016-17. What specific aspects of the Phase II project work will be undertaken in 2014-15? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Hon. Minister.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question from the Member for Gjoa Haven. I apologize. Regarding the Gjoa Haven Qiqirtaq High School, I think in June 7, 2013 it cost \$29 million. In the July 2013 agreement, construction was started. In 2013 when the ship arrived, the building materials were on board. Today, it's 85 percent completed.

The reason for the delay was in December 2013, but we will resume construction in May 2014. In 2013 there were three portable classrooms which arrived in 2013 by sealift. The completion date was set for March 2014.

The contract has been awarded to Cap Enterprises to the tune of \$1,600,000.

And just for your information, this is for two buildings for the teachers, or that can be used by teachers. Let's be clear on that.

The completion date, if all goes well for the project, is September 2016. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. With that, (interpretation) pursuant to Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and I will rise to report progress. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will continue with that department tomorrow. I will report progress at this time.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress, as usual. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? The seconder is the Hon. Minister Okalik. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 14:

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 2
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Friday, March 14, at
9:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:04*

