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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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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)
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1022
Ministers' Statements	1022
Members' Statements	1026
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1031
Oral Questions.....	1032
Tabling of Documents	1047
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1048
Report of the Committee of the Whole	1080
Orders of the Day	1080

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, October 22, 2014.....1022

B.

Ministers' Statements

045 – 4(2): Incident in Ottawa (Taptuna).....1022
046 – 4(2): Minister Absent from the House (Ugyuk)1022
047 – 4(2): Early Childhood Education in Nunavut (Quassa).....1022
048 – 4(2): Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Gatherings (Ugyuk).....1023
049 – 4(2): Expansion of Connected North Videoconferencing Project (Quassa).....1024
050 – 4(2): National and Territorial Firefighting Competitions 2014 (Sammurtok).....1025

C.

Members' Statements

116 – 4(2): Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (Shooyook)1026
117 – 4(2): Waste Reduction in Nunavut (Angnakak)1027
118 – 4(2): 2014 Elders' Gathering in Cape Dorset (Joanasie).....1027
119 – 4(2): Telecommunications Services in Pond Inlet (Enook).....1028
120 – 4(2): Kivalliq Regional Soccer Tournament in Whale Cove (Kuksuk).....1029
121 – 4(2): Incident in Ottawa (Ugyuk)1030
122 – 4(2): Pangnirtung HTO Activities (Mike)1030

D.

Oral Questions

184 – 4(2): Telecommunications Services (Enook)1032
185 – 4(2): Staff Housing Shortage in Arviat (Savikataaq)1034

186 – 4(2): Property Taxes (Rumbolt)	1035
187 – 4(2): Waste Reduction in Nunavut (Angnakak)	1037
188 – 4(2): Canadian Heritage Rivers (Mikkungwak)	1038
189 – 4(2): Social Worker for Repulse Bay (Mapsalak)	1039
190 – 4(2): Foster Care Placements (Joanasie)	1041
191 – 4(2): Information on Casuals (Hickes)	1042
192 – 4(2): Poverty Reduction Roundtable (Mikkungwak)	1043
193 – 4(2): Records Checks for Foster Homes (Hickes)	1045
194 – 4(2): Nunavut Harvester Support Program (Savikataaq)	1046

E.

Tabling of Documents

041 – 4(2): Office of the Fire Marshal 2013 Annual Report (Sammurtok).....	1047
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F.

Bills

Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2015-2016 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee	1048
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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, October 22, 2014****Members Present:**

Ms. Pat Angnakak, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickee, 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 Sammurtook, Hon. Tom Sammurtook, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Welcome, members and ministers. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 045 – 4(2):
Incident in Ottawa**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, a number of shootings have taken place in Ottawa and, in particular, the House of Commons. We do not know the extent of the situation, as the situation is fluid and unfolding.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sincerest condolences on behalf of Nunavut to those who have been affected, to their families and loved ones as well to those citizens in Ottawa. It is a tragic and unimaginable situation.

We are concerned for the safety of individuals and we support the efforts presently taken by the police and security officers in this very tense situation as the event unfolds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Minister's Statement 046 – 4(2):
Minister Absent from the House**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that our colleague, (interpretation ends) Hon. Ell, (interpretation) will be absent from the House today to attend Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's annual general meeting in Cambridge Bay on behalf of Premier Taptuna. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 047 – 4(2): Early
Childhood Education in Nunavut**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In the last two years, the Education Programs Division at Nunavut Arctic College expanded its mandate to include responsibility for early childhood

education as well as the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

Since then, there have been continuous efforts to generate a program base for the delivery of a pan-Nunavut early childhood education approach in a consistent and directed effort to enhance the learning and teaching models for our students. Mr. Speaker, these efforts have resulted in a partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada and a multi-year contribution of \$1,100,000. Consequently, we have been engaged in an extended study and consultation program with stakeholders that coincided with our rollout of ECE programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that multiple funding sources have come together. These include a contribution of \$100,000 of additional funding for the delivery of our Early Childhood Education Diploma Program at Nunatta Campus from the Department of Family Services and \$200,000 from the Kakivak Association to support both campus and community ECE programs. Additionally, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency has provided \$635,000 for Early Childhood Education program delivery this fall.

Nunavut Arctic College is offering the first Early Childhood Education Diploma Program. The two-year program provides training in culturally relevant, quality child care that stimulates the intellectual, physical, emotional, and social development of our young children from infancy to age 5. The program was developed with widespread consultation and research last year and incorporates Inuit culture

and language along with current developmental health research.

I am pleased to announce that classes commenced September 2 at Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit with 16 students representing all three regions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member Ms. Ugyuk

**Minister's Statement 048 – 4(2):
Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty
Reduction Gatherings**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to inform the House of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

The roundtable was created as a formal body two years ago by a memorandum of understanding between the government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

I serve as co-chair of the roundtable with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Vice-president James Eetoolook.

My participation on the roundtable for the government and my role as co-chair are requirements of the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*.

I am sure that Members of this House are aware that the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction met earlier this year in Rankin Inlet May 12 to 14. More than 65 participants attended the roundtable representing 21 communities as well as government, Inuit

organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

The theme discussed at this gathering was *Inunnguiniq*: Parenting and Child Development. This issue will be included in the new Makimaniq Five-year Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

The roundtable meets again later this year in Iqaluit November 26 to 28. We will have a very full agenda, which will include a review of the Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

As co-chairs, James Eetoolook and I are inviting each hamlet council to send a representative and we are extending this invitation to Inuit organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the business community. We are also including people with direct experience of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to social progress in Nunavut and we are committed to the development of our social and cultural policies through public engagement and collaboration.

The Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction ensures that this engagement occurs on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 049 – 4(2):
Expansion of Connected North
Videoconferencing Project**

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

like to report on an exciting partnership with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, CISCO Canada, Partners in Research, and SSi Micro that is providing enriched education opportunities for our students and teachers.

The Connected North project uses video technology to provide our students with an exciting and engaging classroom experience by connecting them to materials, resources, and subject matter specialists, sharing knowledge in real time from anywhere in the world.

Mr. Speaker, CISCO Canada, a worldwide leader in information technology and networking, was inspired by ITK to donate their time and resources to work together with educators and technical experts to develop a project in the north.

I can say that the second phase will be completed at the end of November 2014. Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit, Peter Pitseolak School in Cape Dorset, and John Arnalukjuak High School in Arviat will join the Connected North network. They will be able to do live interactions. I can also say that the TD Bank Financial Group is also supporting the expansion into Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, CISCO has been working with Community and Government Services and SSi Micro to provide the network management hardware and configurations needed to give these schools the access they need for video conferencing sessions.

At Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit, computer systems technician students will assist as part of the CISCO Networking Academy program, under the supervision of CGS, with the

installation of hardware required for network connectivity.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the generous support of our partners and I welcome this new modern way of learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 050 – 4(2):
National and Territorial
Firefighting Competitions 2014**

Hon Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to congratulate the firefighters who took part in territorial and national level firefighting competitions.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the firefighters who took part in territorial and national level firefighting competitions this summer.

(interpretation ends) Each summer, volunteer firefighters from across Nunavut join together for a territorial-level firefighting competition. Participants compete in obstacle courses, skills exercises, and time trials that simulate the actual conditions of fighting a fire. This annual event is an important part of training, skills development, and team building for Nunavut firefighters.

From this territorial competition, six firefighters are chosen by their peers to continue on to the national competition held the following week.

This year, the following six firefighters were selected to represent Team Nunavut at the National Aboriginal Firefighting Competition held in Fort McKay, Alberta:

John Bobby Ningark Jr. – Kugaaruk
Adam Pingushat – Arviat
Iqaluk Toonoo – Cape Dorset
Alex Kilabuk – Pangnirtung
Steven Iqalukjuak – Clyde River
Atsaina Eeyeevadlok – Kimmirut

Mr. Speaker, Team Nunavut's performance at the National Aboriginal Firefighting Competition garnered high praise from judges, participants, and observers.

At one point in the competition, Team Nunavut was ranked second overall. They finished in sixth place and with high marks in several categories of the competition.

Mr. Speaker, what I am most proud of is not only their performance in the scored competitions, but in the way these firefighters represented our territory as a team both on and off the course.

Whereas other jurisdictions spend months training as a team for the national competition, Team Nunavut's firefighters are chosen by their peers only a week before the events start. This came as a surprise to many observers who commented that they performed as a team who had practised together for months, if not years.

Their exemplary teamwork, encouragement, and support they showed to their fellow firefighters and competitors earned them the Max McNeill Award for Most Sportsmanlike

Team as chosen by the other teams, which Team Nunavut has won seven times in the last nine years. Mr. Speaker, this speaks to the high calibre of talented firefighters we have in our territory and the respect they have garnered from their peers across the country.

I would like to invite all of my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating our firefighters on their outstanding performance at the firefighting competitions this summer. We are proud to have them represent Nunavut on the territorial and national stage. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 3. Members' Statements.

(interpretation ends) Members, I wish to inform you that the Member for Uqqummiut has advised my office that he will not be able to be present in the House today due to illness.

(interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Quttitquq, Mr. Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 116 – 4(2): Inuit Qaujimatujatugangit

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, constituents of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and people of Nunavut who are watching. Before I raise my question with the minister, I would like my fellow MLAs to hear what I have experienced here in Nunavut. I am rising today to

talk about Inuit societal values. While I read about Inuit societal values here that has been recognized in language, in education and to not cause harm to your fellow person, it is a family relationship issue.

I looked for provisions regarding *Inuit Qaujimatujatugangit* and traditional practices as it relates to social issues, but I do not find them in any of the regulations that I am reading here and in fact are omitted altogether.

Mr. Speaker, when I started in March a year ago, I was prevented from making a motion in relation to IQ, Inuit societal values specifically. When I was told that these were already incorporated in IQ, I was embarrassed because I did not want to break the law. I did not see them at all, however, and that is truly regrettable. So when I was told by my fellow MLA's will only be an added drain to taxpayer money if we incorporated them into the regulations. I was also told that my motion is an empty gesture.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The member for Quttitquq is asking for consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I do not hear a nay, so please go ahead, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook: (interpretation) I had submitted to my fellow MLAs that this is an issue of great importance to me, about societal values. I am sure that everyone has had the opportunity to read it. If we take Inuit societal values and apply them, the future of our children and grandchildren may not improve right away, but in the long run it will make a

difference. So long as these values are not incorporated in the regulations, we shall never have a place and our children will continue to be taken away from us.

This is completely unacceptable. Whenever the opportunity arises, I will be raising this issue with the minister responsible for culture. The fact that Inuit societal values are not in the regulations cannot be tolerated and we must change that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Member's Statement 117 – 4(2):
Waste Reduction in Nunavut**

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize National Waste Reduction Week, which runs from October 20 to 26 across the county.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Iqaluit are very familiar with the types of problems that can occur in the area of waste management. I would like to commend the City of Iqaluit for taking steps towards better waste management in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the theme of this year's Waste Reduction Week is "Too Good to Waste." Instead of simply throwing away unwanted items into the garbage box, I encourage folks to take the time to sort through them and put some effort into finding ways that they can be reused, repurposed, and regenerated.

Mr. Speaker, the slogan "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" will never go out of date. In fact, it is probably more and more relevant as time goes by. Protecting our environment becomes more critical with each passing day. If we made the effort,

not just for the week but for every day of the year, it would go a long way towards preserving this beautiful world that we live in.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see individuals making efforts to sort and manage their household waste. I am glad that communities are working on projects to address local waste management issues. I appreciate local businesses which bring forward initiatives to reduce waste.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed in the lack of leadership from our own government in addressing solid waste management. I am saddened not to see any recycling projects listed in our current capital plan. I'm worried that there is no territorial-wide plan to collect and salvage reusable materials.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important issue and at the appropriate time, I will be asking questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 118 – 4(2): 2014
Elders' Gathering in Cape Dorset**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the elders of Cape Dorset on successfully hosting the 20th annual Eastern Arctic Elders Gathering this past August. The Illuajummiut Elders Committee led by Atsia Alasua put many hours into planning this event which brought approximately 329 elders

and assistants from Nunavik and Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, the elders gathering was a time to celebrate Inuit culture as well as strengthen closer ties between elders between differing settlements. It was a time for enjoying companionship and reflecting on and sharing past experiences. During the elders' gathering I'm sure the homes and many other places in Cape Dorset were filled with many stories and lessons that elders shared among one another.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize all the elders who attended the gathering and thank their helpers for assisting them and also give appreciation to the members of the Illuajummiut Elders Committee. They are:

Atsiaq Alasua,

Qabaroak Qatsiya,

Zeke Ejesiak,

Simiga Suvega,

Pujjualu Etidloie,

Timangiaq Petaulaasie, and

I give special tribute to my late paternal uncle, Malitta Qilippalik, who passed away in June of this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 119 – 4(2): Telecommunications Services in Pond Inlet

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express serious concerns regarding telecommunication services in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, Pond Inlet has suffered a number of incidents in which local and long distance telephone service has been lost. Mr. Speaker, these recurring incidents have raised some real concerns about safety and access to emergency services in the community.

Mr. Speaker, when the phones aren't working, people cannot contact health workers in the event of an after-hour emergency.

As with most communities, our nurses are often stretched to the limit as it is. These incidents have resulted in nurses having to physically remain at the health centre on a 24-hour basis in order to be available for an emergency whenever the phones stop working. I pay tribute to their dedication.

These recurring situations also impact the ability of people to contact the RCMP as well as local authorities.

As you will recall, a telephone outage occurred in Iqaluit a few weeks ago. This incident made headlines and NorthwesTel reacted quickly to address the situation.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's Statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

I mentioned that as soon as the incident about telephone problems occurred in Iqaluit, all the newsmen picked it up and it was addressed. Smaller communities deserve to receive the same level of services.

I am publicly calling on NorthwesTel to undertake a full review and upgrade of Pond Inlet's telecommunications infrastructure in terms of how problems can be addressed as quickly as they occur.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am perfectly aware that the Government of Nunavut has been making submissions to the CRTC concerning NorthwesTel's modernization plans and other communications issues.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is vitally important that the government take action to work with local municipalities, the RCMP, and other stakeholders to have adequate emergency plans in place to deal with telecommunications outages.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking questions to the minister on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk.

**Member's Statement 120 – 4(2):
Kivalliq Regional Soccer
Tournament in Whale Cove**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow Nunavummiut and residents of Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to express the fact I am happy that during this past weekend, the young people of Whale Cove had recreational games going on and that was good to see. We regret that just as the games were getting started, we had to leave to come here. I have been keeping a close eye on what took place after we left and that is why I am standing here today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today and congratulate the youth in Whale Cove who participated in the Kivalliq Regional Soccer Tournament this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, the boys 15 and under team came in second place and the girls under 15 came in first place. I am very proud of all those youth who participated and I'm sure they worked hard as a team. I would also like to say a big "thank you" to their coaches, Alex Maykin and Hayley Taylor, who have given their time and energy to work with the youth. Also thank you to any and all volunteers and organizers who make these types of events possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read out the names of the girls and the boys on the soccer teams. It's a long list.

For the boys team under 15, (interpretation) they were:

Hugh Innuapik,
Joshua Natar,
Stanley Adjuk Jr.,
John Voisey,
Teemotee Kritterdlik,
Kevin Voisey,
Steven Paniga,
Atuat Voisey,
Mark Aingu, and
Jeremiah Oklaga.

They were the (interpretation ends) boys team second place (interpretation) finishers.

(interpretation ends) And the girls who came in first place under 15 are:

J.C. Jones,
Caitlynn Oklaga,
Shaelynn Kuksuk,
Janelle Massey,
Micah Sammurtok,
Diana Okalik, and
Anita Paniga.

Once again, congratulations to you all. *Qujannamiik*. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 121 – 4(2):
Incident in Ottawa**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member for Netsilik, our MP Leona Aglukkaq is in a lockdown today, so we're thinking of her. She grew up in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. We learned that she is okay and fine this morning, and we're thankful that she is safe.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly and cabinet, I am thankful that we are given a government with certain powers and privileges. She works within the government and has relatives in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. I would like to thank her for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 122 – 4(2):
Pangnirtung HTO Activities**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish my fellow residents of Pangnirtung and Nunavut a good day.

Before I make my statement, we went to Whale Cove last week for a meeting and the reception was very good over there. I thank the people and the mayor and council of Whale Cove for receiving us well and I send my greetings to them. We were very well taken care of during our stay there.

I also wish to extend a big smile to all my relatives wherever they may be.

I rise today to talk about the Pangnirtung HTO's experience since this spring.

Nowadays, it's often difficult to acquire country food, especially with the growing population in the communities, particularly for the people who require assistance in obtaining country food.

The Pangnirtung HTO has established a very good practice within the community. The HTO board has set up a program where they purchase seal meat. As of today, they have purchased over 6,370 lbs. from the hunters or harvesters and also have paid out over \$11,000 to the harvesters. There are close to 60 harvesters who work within that program. To date, this is very beneficial and I would also like to congratulate the Pangnirtung HTO.

I also know that this program would not be able to go ahead in Pangnirtung if it wasn't for the assistance of the HTO board. They have been working very hard on marine fisheries from turbot and shrimp fisheries and with the money they made from their profits, they purchased country food and distributed them for free.

It was in May 2014 that this program was started and it's continuing today. This program was set up by the HTO, whose board is also a member of the Baffin Fisheries Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, (interpretation ends) Hon. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you for allowing me to conclude my statement.

This is a very interesting program. As I stated, the HTO of Pangnirtung is a member of the Baffin Fisheries Coalition and if it wasn't for them, I am sure that this program would not be able to go ahead. I would also like everyone to note that the Pangnirtung HTO board members are also full members of the Baffin Fisheries Coalition and they make their profit through that.

Mr. Speaker, that is the only program I am talking about. There are other programs for caribou and fish, but I just wanted to talk about this issue because it is very interesting to hear that Pangnirtung residents can eat fresh country food. Thank you.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like my colleagues to join me, as I made my Minister's Statement, the first Early Childhood Education Program students are here and this program is being offered in seven communities.

First of all, I would like to welcome Ellen Hamilton. She is director of the Early Childhood Education Program at Arctic College. Please rise when I call

your name. The instructors include Michelle McConkey, Shiloh Minor, and Aaju Peter.

There are 16 students taking this program from various communities in Nunavut. This is their first program. Please rise when I call your name.

Helen Mautaritnaaq from Baker Lake, probably not here;
Rhoda Hiqiniq from Baker Lake;
Austin Robinson from Cambridge Bay;
Goota Jaw from Cape Dorset;
Rachel Bell from Cape Dorset;
Sileema Tunnillie from Cape Dorset;
Noodloo Peter from Iqaluit;
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Millie Hikok from Kugluktuk;
Rebecca Karoo from Taloyoak; I'm sorry if I'm not pronouncing your name properly;
Julia Nauyuk from Pangnirtung;
Meeka Eeseemailie from Pangnirtung;
Cynthia Sammurtok from Rankin Inlet;
and
Donna Makayak from Rankin Inlet.

These are the first students taking the Early Childhood Education Program. As I stated earlier, this program will be done in seven other communities and Iqaluit is the first to take this program.

I would also like to acknowledge an individual from Igloolik, Josiah Kadlutsiak and also his son Alex Kadlutsiak Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Premier Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I rise today to break one of the House rules. I'm going to recognize from my constituency in Kugluktuk, Kristen Tologanak, who is taking a Nunavut Arctic College course, and Millie Hikok from Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, it's not too often I get to rise to recognize people from my hometown, so I'm taking this opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to welcome each and every one of the visitors to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation) Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 184 – 4(2): Telecommunications Services

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

In my Member's Statement today, I raised serious concerns about the ongoing problem of recurring telecommunication outages in Pond Inlet. As I noticed, this has been going on for over two years now and has had a serious impact on the delivery of essential and emergency services to my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister: can the minister tell me if his department has formally raised this matter with NorthwesTel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Within our government, this is our responsibility as the Department of CGS. CRTC held hearings in Inuvik on June 17, 2013. Sorry, my mistake. It was in March 2014. We spoke with CRTC about telecommunications in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that answers my question, so I'll ask it again.

In Pond Inlet, for the past two years, we've had telephone outages that have caused a lot of problems for us and it has affected the nurses. They've had to sleep at the nursing station so that they will be available for emergencies.

My question to the minister was: have you brought this bad problem in Pond Inlet up with NorthwesTel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the question. Pond Inlet is not the only community in that situation; other communities also have the same problem. We have been trying to communicate with NorthwesTel through CRTC and they have told us that they will be updating their equipment. However, their plans don't go far enough and we have been telling them to fix it better. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, this is a very critical matter and it affects the RCMP. I believe there should be emergency planning done in case of an emergency or if problems arise where dangers occur. I feel there should be a plan where they know what to do if there are no phones available in Pond Inlet, for example.

Mr. Minister, can you tell me that you have done this already? Can you tell me that I should not be worried anymore? If we lost all the telecommunications, do you have a contingency plan in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any other communication devices available in Pond Inlet, but I can tell the hon. member that if an emergency occurs and if there is a great need to inform people, there are other phones

available. The RCMP has their own phone systems that we could use. Thank you.

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

Question 185 – 4(2): Staff Housing Shortage in Arviat

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

Concerns have been brought to my attention that there is a shortage of government staff housing in Arviat. It has now reached the point where GN employees are being asked to share units.

Can the minister confirm what the current staff house shortage is in Arviat? How many staff houses are they short currently in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In regard to my colleague's question about staff housing, I know it's obvious within Nunavut, in the communities not just in Arviat, that the shortage of staff housing exists. We have been trying to find solutions to this problem. That is what I can tell my colleague at this time. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask my same question again, as I did not receive an answer at all. Can the minister let the House know how many government staff houses are they short in Arviat currently? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we are working on this in the communities, including Arviat. For Arviat, I would have to get the actual number from my department. Right now, I can't tell you how many staff houses we are short, but I will be able to give you the information for Arviat once I get it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have also been notified that due to the shortage of staff housing, there are some government jobs that cannot be advertised, so it is an important issue. We have a hard enough time filling jobs without another problem.

I recognize that the government doesn't have an unlimited budget in which to construct new staff housing in every community, but will the minister commit to having his department, the housing

corporation, enter into discussions with a private landlord in Arviat? I have also been informed that there is housing available, but it is not staff housing. Will the minister be able to confirm that he can go into discussions into leasing more staff units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have started talks with private homeowners and prospective lessors that could lease to government. I can tell you that my department, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, is working on this. Once we have all the information, I will be able to give you more details on the matter. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 186 – 4(2): Property Taxes

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

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

In April of this year, the government approved amendments to the Property Assessment Regulations made under the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*. These amendments, which were recommended by the minister, increased the regional base rates for developed

parcels, which resulted in increases to the assessed value of land parcels. A number of my constituents have noted increases to their property tax bills.

Can the minister explain the government's reasons for approving increases to the regional base rates for developed parcels under the Property Assessment Regulations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Property assessment is the responsibility, actually, of my department. The actual assessments are done by my Department of CGS. However, the mill rate is set by another department in this government.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I lost the question that the member asked. Maybe he can ask the same question again. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Can you please repeat your question. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sure can.

>> *Laughter*

My question was, a number of my constituents have noted increases to their property tax bills. Can the minister explain the government's reasons for approving increases to the regional base rates for developed parcels under the Property Assessment Regulations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The assessed values haven't been increased for the last ten years. However, the mill rate for 2014 remains the same. I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to find out the reasons why it was increased. I understand that it hasn't been increased in ten years. It leads to my next question. How often does the government review these regulations and recommend increases? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The property assessments are reviewed periodically and certainly within a ten-year period, and then based on the review, that's when assessments are done and the property taxes are determined from that. Thank you.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, a plebiscite will be held in 2016 concerning the issue of the sale of municipal lands. Can the minister clarify if any other amendments to the *Property Assessment and Taxation*

Act or its regulations will be made before the plebiscite is held? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I apologize. I didn't have my earpiece in when he asked the question. Maybe the member can ask the question again. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Rumbolt, you have a second chance. Please proceed.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try again.

As the minister is aware, a plebiscite will be held in 2016 concerning the issue of the sale of municipal lands. Can the minister clarify if any other amendments to the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* or its regulations will be made before the plebiscite is held? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I must ask all members not to use your cellphones at this time because it is delaying a lot of questions. Thank you.

Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Member Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In short answer to the member's question, we have not made that determination as of yet within my department. Thank you.

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

Question 187 – 4(2): Waste Reduction in Nunavut

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like we have the Minister of CGS on the hot seat today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my Member's Statement earlier, I am very disappointed that our government lacks the leadership in the area of waste management, especially when it comes to recycling materials such as cans, bottles, plastics, metals, and others and reusing salvageable materials such as wood, furniture, office furnishings, and other items.

Can the minister describe how his department has been working with hamlet councils to implement recycling programs across Nunavut and, if those discussions have not yet taken place, when will they begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently developing a solid waste management strategy that will provide guidelines to ensure solid waste facilities are properly managed, including segregation of hazardous

materials, bulky metals, and recyclables. Thank you. I'm sorry.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that answer. Mr. Speaker, many communities do not have the means or the capacity to start recycling programs by themselves.

Not all local retailers such as the Co-Op stores or NorthMart have taken the initiative to address their own role in community waste management.

Can the minister clarify what support and resources are available from within his department to assist communities, retailers, and other entities in addressing local waste management issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders, we are developing standard operating procedures to assist municipal staff and also stakeholders to educate and provide public awareness for other organizations to be able to take part in the proper segregation, hazardous waste management, and other opportunities with respect to waste management. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I got half of an answer there, but I'm going to go on.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that a certain amount of planning has to go into organizing the Nunavut-wide waste management program, whether it focuses on recycling, reusing materials, or the whole gamut.

Earlier this year, the minister's department issued a request for proposals for potential planning for solid waste management methods for the Nunavut territory. Can the minister provide an update on the status of the RFP, including information on the successful contractor, when the work will begin, and most importantly, when we can anticipate a territorial plan being put into place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is right. We do have a contractor working with us on this. However, at this point, I would be happy to provide the member with information once I've had further discussions with my department. Thank you.

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

Question 188 – 4(2): Canadian Heritage Rivers

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My

question today is directed to the Minister of Environment.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, I asked him questions during our spring sitting concerning the issue of Heritage Rivers in Nunavut. At that time, the minister indicated that there had been delays in reaching an umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement for Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nunavut.

On June 10, 2014, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced that it would be formally requesting the appointment of a conciliator to resolve this matter. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Hon. Member Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, for sure, I can state the desire to create Heritage Rivers and parks in relation to recreation and tourism, including parks facilities, and these kinds of things. At the present time, as a government, our Parks and Special Places Division is keeping tabs on it.

In relation to NTI's role, I mentioned that we will be setting up a committee that would deal with the resolution of this in terms of Inuit impacts and benefits. We will be attempting to address these things shortly. As a government, we will be working with Nunavut Tunngavik forthwith and we have recently come to an understanding just this month. If NTI wishes to begin to set up their own negotiating team, I

would need to find out if they are ready to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate how the community and residents of Baker Lake, which has two Heritage Rivers, Kazan River and Thelon River, are being kept informed of developments on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Minister of Environment, (interpretation ends) Hon. Member Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, with respect to the questions by the member, there was an impasse and the Government of Nunavut is unable to do much with matters that are under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

As I was trying to say, we will be working with NTI and the federal government on Heritage Rivers, which deal with tourism, which is under our jurisdiction. That is why I said that we have tried to come up with some solutions within Nunavut in conjunction with NTI in order to successfully resolve those issues that deal with parks and tourism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I

have no doubt that the residents of Baker Lake will be kept informed.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate what the new timeline is for the achievement of an umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement for Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Hon. Member Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the Government of Nunavut's plans to succeed, in relation to his question, NTI and the federal government are also involved. We have tried to form a committee that would try to come up with solutions that will benefit Inuit, with NTI as partners. I am, however, unable to say where they are on this at this time as I haven't heard what they have done so far to get this started. I do know that NTI has encountered difficulties in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Question 189 – 4(2): Social Worker for Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Family Services, Ms. Ugyuk.

Mr. Speaker, I had asked the minister a question previously in terms of Repulse Bay still not having a social service worker up to this time. It seems that

hiring was imminent, yet there still is nothing. Can the minister give an update of when a social worker would be hired in Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member from Repulse Bay for asking about family services. Once I find out which communities will get social workers, as I don't information on daily activities, I will let the member know once I get the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that has been the case for quite some time. We do have social workers pay a short visit to our community in Repulse Bay. With that, the (interpretation ends) mental health nurse (interpretation) in Repulse Bay ends up doing the social worker's job. The mental health nurse does the work of social services. Is that an appropriate thing to do for the mental health worker? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. I will work with the Minister of Human Resources to make sure what position they're at with the staffing of a social

worker in Repulse Bay. I will let my colleague know once I get that information.

However, in regard to the member's other question, I believe that the Minister of Health is responsible for the mental health workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister let me know fairly soon... ? In regard to my second question, when there is no social worker in our community, I'm sure it's not a proper responsibility of the mental health worker to do the social worker's duties since each job entails different rules and procedures. I would like to ask if that's an appropriate thing to do and I would like to have the minister respond to that question as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. Once I get that information, I will provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 190 – 4(2): Foster Care Placements

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask a question to the Minister of Health, but the minister isn't here. Therefore, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services and it's in regard to foster care placements.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, Members of the Legislative Assembly and those in previous Assemblies have discussed foster care in Nunavut at length.

Most recently, we met and held public hearings regarding the Auditor General of Canada's 2014 Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut. We discussed these issues because we want children who are placed in foster care to receive the best possible services from our government.

Mr. Speaker, placing children in foster care must take careful consideration of a number of factors, especially when there's an urgent need. Can the minister tell us what factors are taken into consideration when the department must urgently place a child in foster care when a home study cannot be completed in a timely fashion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question in regard to foster care placements. When individuals apply to become foster

parents, they have to indicate why they would like to become a foster parent. Their home has to be investigated and the RCMP has to do a criminal records check. They have to make sure the home is inspected.

When the Auditor General of Canada did their follow-up report and they made their recommendations, the Department of Family Services agreed to all of their recommendations. I want my colleague to know that we have agreed to all of the recommendations and we are working urgently to make sure that we have foster care parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us how many, if any, foster homes currently have children in care without having a completed home study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't immediately know off hand about uncompleted home studies and that's how I can reply to the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us what steps are being taken to ensure

that the children are not placed in foster homes without a home study and to make sure that criminal records checks are done of all adults in the house and that other required checks are being completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What my colleague is asking in regard to social workers and being a previous social worker, I know that we cannot place a child in a home without a home study. I believe we have to have a home study before placing a child. If that's not the case, I can discuss this matter. If my colleague knows if there was a case about this, I would like to have a discussion with him. If the individuals want to become foster parents, they have to apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 191 – 4(2): Information on Casuals

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year, in the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, a question was asked and a written response was provided by the minister's office on the number of casual staff that they have.

Mr. Speaker, I received some correspondence just yesterday and it lists that there are 20 casual staff in the Department of Family Services, of

which 4 are beneficiaries and 16 are non-beneficiaries.

I'm sure, with that question, the minister was briefed in a little bit more detail than this letter was providing. I guess my initial question would be: how many of those 20 casual staffing positions are administrative and how many are program-related in Family Services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the member was asking about a position. Can the member ask me the question again? I didn't quite hear him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Hickes, can you please repeat your question.

Mr. Hickes: My apologies, Mr. Speaker, I should have mentioned the department right at the very beginning.

I was asking: out of the 20 casual staffing positions that are listed, how many of them are administrative and how many are program-related? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say that I will respond to that question when I'm able to respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for the record, the minister's department can get some of the information and save me the bother of having to ask this next question at a future date. If she could also provide the information on how many contract positions and how many internal transfers from other GN departments, how many contract positions, and how many positions are acting in other positions than they're actually hired to be working in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I think I hear a question asked in the form of a notice, (interpretation ends) I take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken the question as notice and I will move to the next member on my list. Oral Questions. I have no more names. Whoops!

>> *Laughter*

Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Question 192 – 4(2): Poverty Reduction Roundtable

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question today will be to the Minister of Family Services.

During our spring sitting, a number of my colleagues brought this up and at the same time, some of them were taken as notice, but at the same time, we have received some information from the minister to the House.

My question to the minister today will be on the round table for poverty reduction. To date, there have been a number of studies and various meetings, and possibly a number of meetings in the near future. Can the minister advise the House today when all of these studies and meetings will conclude and actually have an action plan for the territory regarding poverty reduction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I was listening to my colleague's question, I didn't quite understand it. I know that he was talking about meetings next month and I know that we are now working on a five-year plan, but I didn't quite understand what the question was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and rephrase my question here.

My question is to the Minister of Family Services.

During the spring sitting, a number of my colleagues had asked regarding poverty reduction, some of which were taken as notice and some of which have received correspondence regarding poverty reduction.

There have been a number of studies that have taken place throughout the territory, there have been some meetings that have already taken place, and there are future meetings that will be occurring.

My question to the minister today is: when will the studies and the meetings conclude and have an action plan for the territory of Nunavut regarding poverty reduction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking that question in regard to poverty reduction. Yes, we hold meetings and we are working on ironing out this program as it is a new program and we are now working on the five-year plan.

As I stated earlier today, we are working on *Inunnguiniq*. A meeting will be held next month on parenting and (interpretation ends) poverty reduction, (interpretation) which the Department of Family Services is working on. Topics will include food prices, the lack of housing, and the five-year plan from 2014 to 2019. The Nunavut Food Security Coalition is also involved.

On the homelessness strategy, there are quite a few plans that we are working on

and we have not made a decision yet, so I can't provide a proper response to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there are going to be all kinds of meetings taking place. What timeline will the department and all of these organizations determine? Enough of studies. Enough of meetings. Let's start putting the money out to the people. What is the department working towards so that hungry people can be fed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking for clear information. Next month, during this sitting, I'll be able to provide that information as to when we can actually start. As MLAs, we will be asking our communities to be involved in the plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there will be meetings and they are going to decide. My final supplementary is: at this final meeting, will there be recommendations set forth to accommodate all communities across the territory, 25 communities in Nunavut, to ensure poverty reduction is equally treated

across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for requesting information on that. As I stated earlier, we are inviting the hamlets to come to the meeting and that is quite clear. We also know that some people who are invited to meetings do not arrive. We will only know who arrived when the meeting starts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 193 – 4(2): Records Checks for Foster Homes

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question for the Minister responsible for Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in a question from one of my colleagues, Mr. Joanasie, he was asking about the assessment records check for foster home approval. At that time, the minister was, if I understood the response properly, unsure on whether all of them have been done.

I was just going over the correspondence from the standing committee when her department was appearing in front of it, and again in one of the written responses that was provided to the committee, it talks to the foster home and care providers have to undergo, and I'm quoting this, "a detailed assessment and

records check prior to being approved to care for a child."

My concern is that there are children in care of some of these homes or facilities prior to them being approved. Could the minister maybe clarify her earlier response for me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for requesting clarification of this matter. When children are put into foster homes, they are given out to recognized foster homes or if they can be taken over by their relatives, then we look into that. It is a two-part thing. We call it kinship. I will look for more information on the matter. Our staff is listening right now and if there is anybody in that situation, I will want to be informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that further detailed information. The minister's response brought up another question when she talks about the kinship category of placing children. Do those family members still undergo the same criminal records check and detailed assessments that the other foster families go through? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my fellow MLA for requesting information on that. I have been working with social services for a long time and I know that the children who are taken over by kinship rules are looked at to see if there is someone with a criminal record in the home and to make sure that children are kept in safe places in Nunavut. I will request clarification on this matter from the officials in my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During that clarification, with her department, if she could also clarify if all members of the household go through the same check, up to and including adult children who may be residing in the home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will request clarification on that question as well from my departmental officials. No children should be in a dangerous spot in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 194 – 4(2): Nunavut
Harvester Support Program**

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Environment.

In the spring sitting, I asked the minister about his Hunter Support Program, in particular, the Fur Pricing Program. He said it was being under review and he would come out with one in the fall, either the same one or a revised one.

September 21 is the fall in the calendar. We are in our fall sitting. I would like to ask the minister if he has finished reviewing his Hunter Support Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's only the second day of the fall session. I stated in the spring session that this would be worked on during the summer. My staff has been working on some very difficult matters like caribou and polar bear issues, as well as other things. I can say now that the Hunter Support Program that goes through the Wildlife Division is what the government has been planning under the *Sivumut Abluqta* plan.

I can say right now that things have been delayed because of the fact that they had such a heavy workload. I hope to provide you with information only in the new year. It is being worked on, but we had expected to have it done and it turns out we cannot. As I explained, we've had capacity issues and the staff that we do have had a heavy workload. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify if the review will be done in the calendar year ending in December 2014 or the fiscal year ending in March 2015? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Hon. Member Mr. Mike.

Mr. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking these questions. By saying “new year,” I mean by January. It is being reviewed properly and anything that will be affected by this is also being looked at. We’re making sure that we know what things it will affect as well. We expect to have the report done by January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. January is not that many months away. Can the minister let us know whether he has changed his mind on paying the shipping of fur to other fur buyers? That’s just one little part of it. Can he let the House know if he has changed his position on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Hon. Member Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s under review and we’re trying to see how we can improve those matters for the Fur Pricing Program. Like I said, it is being reviewed. In regard to your question, it’s

being reviewed as well, to be able to buy raw, untreated furs and skins. However, I don’t know right now how that will work before the planning has been completed. The review hasn’t been completed, as I said, and after the review has been completed, we will be able to provide you with more information. 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. 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. Hon. Member Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 041 – 4(2): Office of the Fire Marshal 2013 Annual Report

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Office of the Fire Marshal 2013 Annual Report. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) 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 8 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:23 and
Committee resumed at 15:45

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, members. I would now like to call the first committee meeting to order.

To Nunavummiut listening on the radio and watching the televised proceedings, welcome to the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 8. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with the review of the capital appropriation starting with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Does the committee agree that we first deal with the capital appropriation for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2015-2016 – Economic
Development and Transportation
– Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk, do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes, indeed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the minister's witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The committee is in full agreement. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. As we proceed, Minister Kuksuk, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With me today to my right is my Deputy Minister, Pauloosie Suvega, and to my left is my Associate Deputy Minister of Transportation, Jim Stevens. There are other witnesses here in the Gallery that I can introduce, if you would like, but they are not here at the table. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Perhaps if you need them to go to the witness table, you will be able to introduce them and I will ask you to introduce them if need be.

I would now like to give you an opportunity, as we are reviewing the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, to make your opening remarks. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good day, my fellow Nunavummiut. I would like you to know that I'll be speaking in English.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to be here today to review the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's capital plan for 2015-16 with the Committee of the Whole.

The department is proposing an \$81,426,000 capital plan for the 2015-16 fiscal year. This capital plan will provide for important projects supporting the needs of Nunavummiut using Nunavut's transportation system across air, sea, and land modes.

Iqaluit International Airport

A significant portion of this budget consists of funding in the amount of \$77,226,000 for the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project. This project is the largest and most complex project that this government has undertaken. The funding in 2015-16 will be used to service our payment obligations under the current P3 project agreement. This number reflects a technical accounting change to the budget to reflect the actual amount that is spent on the project in each year. Previous capital estimates have included the GN cash component, but not the debt amount. There is no change to the GN portion of this appropriation.

As my colleagues know, the construction of this project began in June of 2014. The private partner in this P3 project, Arctic Infrastructure Limited Partners, or AILP, assumed operation of the airport on July 21 of this year, 2014. An audit on AILP's compliance with the provisions for Inuit engagement in the project is now underway. Once completed, the results will be provided to members.

The funding for this project comes from three sources: the federal agency P3 Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and the private partner. The Government of Nunavut begins to pay its portion back to AILP starting now and ending in 2048.

A value-for-money analysis determined that the Government of Nunavut would save in excess of \$100 million over this period by choosing this method of financing compared to the cost of constructing and operating the airport in the traditional way. With the arrival of structural steel for the air terminal and combined services buildings on sealift last week, I am pleased to report that this project is proceeding as planned.

Nunavut Airports

Mr. Chairman, in addition to the funding for the Iqaluit International Airport, there are other airport projects, more precisely, airport equipment purchases, under \$250,000, which are grouped together under the heading of Small Capital Projects. We have allocated \$599,000 to complete these projects, which will include new runway inspection vehicles for two communities, as well as maintenance equipment like

compactors and blower attachments for a number of communities.

Several larger equipment purchases will be made under the Minor Capital project heading. Under this heading, we have allocated \$1.7 million to purchase loaders for Grise Fiord and Repulse Bay, plow trucks for Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, and a grader for Kugaaruk.

Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre

The Kivalliq is the only Nunavut region without a visitor centre. Although no funds are allotted for construction of the Rankin Inlet facility in 2015-16, a final draft design is being prepared for the building using carryover funds from the previous fiscal year. Class "A" estimates will be developed for the construction of the facility commencing in fiscal year 2016-17.

Another \$101,000 in small capital funding will be set aside to perform required renovations at our visitor centres in Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, and Cambridge Bay.

Small Craft Harbours

Mr. Chairman, we have included \$500,000 in this capital plan to make minor improvements to community marine facilities across Nunavut. While modest, this investment demonstrates our commitment to the development of marine infrastructure and is essential to our continued efforts to encourage the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to invest in small craft harbours in Nunavut.

We propose making the majority of the funding for community marine facilities

available to communities under contribution agreements so that communities can work on the priority project they have identified.

Motor Vehicles

The Motor Vehicle Information System, (interpretation) or (interpretation ends) MVIS, is being developed in close collaboration with the Department of Community and Government Services' Informatics Planning Division. This system manages the data for all of Nunavut's driver's licences, general identification cards, and vehicle registration information. The system's hardware, software, and operating system are now obsolete and have been experiencing periodic failures in recent years. The acquisition of a new MVIS will ensure the protection of this important source of information.

All of the necessary resources have been allocated to the project to ensure that the request for proposal is issued in this fiscal year. A solution and vendor will be chosen and the allotted funding of \$1.2 million will be spent in 2015-16 for the purchase and implementation of the system.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, this capital plan was put together with much consideration given to prudent spending. Though this plan is financially prudent, we have ensured that it incorporates projects that focus on safety, which is our number one concern.

I believe that this plan is in line with the department's mandate as we continue to strengthen partnerships with the federal government, industry, and our

communities to ensure that the investments we make in Nunavut have a lasting impact on the economic and social future of our territory.

I will be glad to answer any questions from my fellow members.
(interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. Before we proceed, I would like to welcome Deputy Minister Suvega and Mr. Stevens. Welcome to the House.

Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his officials here today.

I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development concerning its review of the proposed 2015-16 capital estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2015-16 is \$81,426,000. The department's capital budget was \$35,968,000 for the 2014-15 fiscal year and \$20,075,000 for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, the need to ensure that Nunavut communities have adequate marine infrastructure has been an ongoing issue of concern for the standing committee.

On June 5, 2009, the government's updated Nunavut Transportation Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Some of the objectives of the strategy are to "Implement the federal Small Craft Harbours (SCH) Program in Nunavut," "Act on the Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report," and "Extend the Small Craft Harbours program to other communities."

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's proposed 2015-16 capital estimates include \$500,000 in funding for the GN's contribution towards the construction of small craft harbours and other marine infrastructure in Nunavut communities. This amount has been included in the department's annual capital estimates since the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

The department has indicated that this funding is to be used to "undertake studies, obtain permits, undertake design work, undertake minor marine improvements and partner with the [federal] Department of Fisheries [and Oceans] on funding major works if the opportunity arises. The program is operated based on available budget through contribution agreements."

Although members support efforts to obtain federal investments in this area, it is recognized that construction costs for major marine facilities can be in the millions of dollars. For example, the 2009 federal budget provided \$17.0 million towards the construction of the new harbour in Pangnirtung.

Members continue to urge the department to focus on improvements to community marine infrastructure that

will enhance the safety of boaters and the protection of equipment.

On September 10, 2013, a Minister's Statement was delivered in the Legislative Assembly which indicated that "all communities were encouraged to submit proposals to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for projects that would improve existing marine facilities." The Minister's Statement further noted that "19 communities took advantage of this program. To date, \$1.6 million has been committed for a variety of projects, including dock upgrades, dredging, boat launches, the installation of floating docks, and the upgrade of sealift areas."

The standing committee urges the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning his department's actual expenditures in this area, including a detailed list of which communities have received and utilized funding under contribution agreements with the department.

Mr. Chairman, in June of 2009, the Legislative Assembly approved \$925,000 in capital funding for the planning and design of a new Iqaluit Regional Marine Facility to "meet the needs of marine re-supply as well as local boat owners and operators." In June of 2010, the Legislative Assembly approved a \$532,000 capital carryover for this project.

It is the understanding of members that the cost to construct a deep water facility would be approximately \$100 million.

Members encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning his

department's efforts to partner with the federal government and industry to identify ways to fund this project.

Mr. Chairman, some of the objectives of the government's updated Nunavut Transportation Strategy are to "Assure the integrity of the Nunavut transportation system by ensuring every community has infrastructure adequate for its needs within that system" and to "Enhance the current airport system." Other objectives are to "Rationalize government use of the transportation system" and "revisit the government's Air Services Study."

In June of 2014, the Legislative Assembly approved over \$18.3 million in capital carryovers for the department, the majority of which were related to airport improvement projects in a number of communities. The standing committee remains concerned about the volume of capital carryovers brought forward by the department in recent years.

The department's proposed 2015-16 capital estimates include over \$77 million in funding for the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project, which is being undertaken as a public-private partnership. Members note that a significant portion of this amount relates to an accounting adjustment for the project.

On July 10 of 2014, the government announced the start of construction of this project. The standing committee urges the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning the status of this project, including the extent to which Inuit employment targets are being met.

Members encourage the department to be mindful of the potential impact of major economic development projects, such as the Mary River mine, on the development of new regional hub airports.

Members also encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning his department's work with NAV CANADA and the Northern Air Transport Association concerning such matters as community aerodrome radio stations, navigational aids, and airport infrastructure. For example, the Northern Air Transport Association adopted a number of formal resolutions at its most recent annual general meeting, including an important resolution that called upon the federal government to establish a region-specific northern airport capital assistance program.

The standing committee also encourages the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to work closely with the Department of Community and Government Services and municipalities to ensure that adequate supplies of granular materials are available for use at airports.

The standing committee also urges the minister to table his department's recently completed 20-year capital needs assessment for Nunavut airports.

The department's 2010-11 capital estimates included \$700,000 in funding for a new Kivalliq regional visitor centre. A number of capital carryovers have been approved by the Legislative Assembly in recent years for this project. The department's current five-year capital plan indicates that it will spend a

total of approximately \$7.45 million on this project, with funding resuming in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The department's proposed 2015-16 capital estimates include \$2.5 million in funding for small and minor capital projects, the majority of which is for the acquisition of mobile equipment for Nunavut airports.

Members emphasize the importance of ensuring that the standards and criteria for such equipment are appropriate for our jurisdiction's conditions in relation to such matters as ease of maintenance and repair. Members also encourage the department to work closely with municipal governments concerning the administration of agreements regarding municipal use of GN-owned airport mobile equipment assets for the provision of essential services in clearly defined circumstances.

Members also urge the minister to table an annual listing in the Legislative Assembly of his department's actual expenditures related to the acquisition of mobile equipment.

The department's budget for small and minor capital projects also includes \$201,000 for transportation-related studies and upgrades to existing visitor centres. The standing committee also urges the minister to report annually on his department's actual expenditures in these areas.

Mr. Chairman, in June of 2007, \$66,000 in funding for a Manitoba-Nunavut road study was carried over in a supplementary appropriation. At that time, the department's five-year capital plan included funding for this project.

However, subsequent years' capital estimates did not include funding for this initiative.

On April 26 of 2013, a news release was issued by the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Manitoba following a meeting of the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table. The release announced that "The proposed winter road from Churchill to Rankin Inlet was a major discussion point at the meeting." Members encourage the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to work closely on this initiative with the Minister of Community and Government Services, who is the Co-Chair of the Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table.

The department's 2014-15 capital estimates included \$2.8 million in funding for the replacement of the government's Motor Vehicle Information System. An additional \$1.2 million is included in the department's proposed 2015-16 capital estimates for this project.

The department has indicated that the Motor Vehicles Division "produces drivers' licences, drivers' record reporting, vehicle registration and General Identification Card services to Nunavummiut." The department's substantiation sheet for this project also indicates that "the system's hardware, software and operating system are obsolete." It also indicates that a new Motor Vehicle Information System will "improve linkages with law enforcement agencies" and "enhance linkages with health care providers."

Mr. Chairman, the importance of ensuring that such documents as driver's

licences and general identification cards are issued in a timely manner to Nunavut residents has been raised in the Legislative Assembly on a number of occasions. Members are hopeful that this investment will improve the efficiency with which such documents are issued in the territory.

Members continue to urge the minister to publicly clarify his department's plans with respect to the sharing of Nunavut residents' personal information with "law enforcement agencies and health care providers."

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2015-16 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Well read.

(interpretation) Before we proceed with our review, I would like to remind members of the rules that we must follow during Committee of the Whole. Firstly, according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

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

At this time, I would like to ask if members have any general comments to

the opening comments. Are there any general comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want clarification on page 2. It states that the government will “save in excess of \$100 million” on the airport project. The private business is there to make money and will make money. Otherwise, they wouldn’t be in it. I’ll just ask the minister if the government runs their airports so poorly that a private company will make money and, at the same time, save the government \$100 million. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. As the Chair, I will allow you to ask that question when we get to the appropriate page under Transportation.

At this time, are there any general comments, not questions but general comments? If there are none, we will move on and I’m sure you have a copy of what we’re going to be reviewing. Page K-3. I’ll be reading from the Inuktitut version.

If anyone has a question, please raise your hand. Please note that when I don’t wear my glasses, I cannot see properly, but I’m sure the table officers will be able to see you when you raise your hand.

Let’s go to the capital estimates on page K-3. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Transportation. Total. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister’s opening comments, he had stated that the Iqaluit airport project is on track with what they had planned.

Forgive my lack of information, Mr. Chairman. I’m not on the Economic Development Committee. I believe, as part of that plan, there were some Inuit employment figures worked into the contract. I’m just wondering if the minister could educate me on whether that part of the contact is also on the plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the question correctly, yes, this was part of the plan to make sure that Inuit are employed during the project.

I would like my deputy minister to add to my response with your permission, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the most part, the preliminary information we’re getting from the proponent is that most of the targets are being met. However, we’re also heading into an audit in the fall period. We will be starting the early phases of that comprehensive audit, including Inuit employment. Once the audit is done, we hope to share that as quickly as possible with members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. What are

the Inuit employment targets for this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to respond to the question about numbers. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a few targets both on the construction phase and the operation phase throughout the life of this project. Are you referring, perhaps, to the construction phase first? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I see Mr. Hickes nodding his head. If you want to continue, Mr. Suvega, I guess.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Beginning with the requirements, starting with about 15 percent labour force construction for beneficiaries, over the life of the project, that number is supposed to escalate all the way up to 60 percent and above. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As all members are aware, this project was negotiated outside the NNI Policy in the belief that it would save the government money. I believe I have said some slight objections to some of that decision.

At the same time, under the NNI Policy, what would the normal Inuit employment number be for a project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to proceed to answer that question as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is one of the first projects of this nature to establish targets like these. For the most part, the intent is there to try and encourage proponents and partners to try and push for as much Inuit employment and content as possible, not just with employment but also with Inuit companies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another issue that I brought forward a number of times on contracting is, as we're all very well aware, we would like as much Inuit employment as possible, especially a project of this size and nature and the trades that are involved.

One of the concerns that I brought forward a number of times is actually also employing long-term northerners. There are a number of people in our territory that have made their lives here, their children are born here and they have lived their whole lives here. While they may not categorically fit under the beneficiary term, are there any hiring

practices in place to help our other Nunavut residents in employment at this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In relation to the member's question, there were many issues taken into consideration. Further, within the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, we have beneficiaries and others. In looking at all of these issues, we felt that any project should include beneficiaries as employees as well as being in the community. These issues were all taken into consideration. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I appreciate the minister's response that it's being looked at, what is being done about it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As per the earlier comments made by my deputy minister, whenever a project or a company owned by Inuit beneficiaries or by northerners is included, the projects fall under the P3 category similar to the international airport project.

There will be a review undertaken of the project during the lull in construction during the winter. All the figures will have to be reviewed by the department, including the number of employees, the

percentage of Inuit workers or northerners. These are just a few of the numerous issues we face and this will be part of the review that my colleague asked about.

After the audit has been completed and the report has been finalized, we would be able to share that with the members. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When this audit is complete, if the proponent is not in compliance with the target numbers of Inuit employment and northern labour, what ramifications does it have on that party? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. After these issues have been reviewed and audited, if we find any non-compliance, such as not meeting the minimum percentage of Inuit employees or Inuit company subcontractors... We will need to review many different issues. Further, if a penalty needs to be placed for non-compliance or not meeting these requirements, these various requirements have different penalties for non-compliance, so we would have to impose penalties on the companies. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have changed suddenly.

I was wondering if the minister could maybe give me a little bit more detail on what some of those penalties may be. Are they serious enough to really put pressure on the proponent to make sure that they are working towards meeting the obligations and even improving upon the numbers that are projected to be employed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. One of our staff members, Tanya Winmill, knows about it. So that you can get a proper response about money and figures, I would like Ms. Winmill to come and respond to that, please. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms...

>>*No audio due to technical difficulties*

Ms. Winmill: ...If those targets are not achieved, which means they won't be compliant in the project agreement, there is a formula, but the penalties imposed on the private partner are extensive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response. Thank you very much. I'll take it as substantial. I'll move on to my next category.

Also within the airport improvement

project, there were some negotiations that were to take place between the Government of Nunavut and the City of Iqaluit of two separate land swaps. What is the status today of those land swaps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The land swap that you're referring to has been completed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So both separate land swaps have been completed, just go confirm. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that one of the land swapped portions of land was contaminated by a previous landowner, specifically, the federal government. How was the environmental cleanup negotiated as part of that swapped land? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I

cannot get into the details about these matters, but I would like to have Tanya Winmill respond to that, please. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Winmill.

Mr. Winmill: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there was some pre-existing contamination on the airport lands which were transferred over and known about by Transport Canada back when they transferred the lands to the GNWT and then over to us.

When we did this project agreement, because the contamination was unknown, the Government of Nunavut agreed to retain the risk of those pre-existing contaminated sites, knowing that we would then invoice back Transport Canada for the work to remove the contaminated soil within the airport lands. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Enook): Thank you, Ms. Winmill. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I understand clearly from the response from Ms. Winmill, was that agreed upon with Transport Canada during the negotiation phase or is there a potential issue down the road or even legal liability? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like Ms. Winmill to continue. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Winmill.

Ms. Winmill: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure what you mean by negotiations. Transport Canada wasn't involved in our negotiations on the project agreement. The project agreement is between the GN and the private partner.

When the land transfer happened, back to the GNWT and then to Nunavut, there is a part in that agreement that states about the pre-existing contamination and that there were certain things that needed to be done, but then Transport Canada acknowledged their responsibility with that pre-existing contamination. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Winmill. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that explanation. I think that describes it better. Basically, the Government of Nunavut will not get a cheque or an invoice for the contaminated soil cleanup of this project, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That question is part of the same issue, so I will ask Ms. Winmill to continue. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Winmill.

Ms. Winmill: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What will happen is we will receive an invoice from the private partner for the contamination cleanup

and then, in turn, we will invoice Transport Canada for those costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate those responses. I'm going to jump over to motor vehicles and the replacement of the Motor Vehicle Information System. Mr. Speaker, I have to apologize, I have been guilty of this in the past, my licence plate renewal has come due and I have forgotten. Will this system allow for the possibility for people who have licence plates in Nunavut to be given a renewal notice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, if my deputy minister can answer it, I would like him to do so. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our hope is that the new system, whatever the system looks like in the future, will have that feature to allow standardized notifications going out. As we work with Community and Government Services in issuing the request for proposals of what an off-the-shelf system might look like, we are also trying to see if we can incorporate additional features into the system that allow for increased efficiency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have spoken to residents in other jurisdictions and it seems that this is more the norm than not of people getting renewal notices for their licence plates and driver's licences.

Now, I know from media coverage that the RCMP has done blitzes in Iqaluit as well as other communities on vehicle registration. In some cases, if I recall the article correctly, up to 40 percent of the vehicles they pulled over had lapsed registrations. Now I know that in the most recent blitz, those numbers had decreased substantially and most of the vehicles are licensed properly.

I'm just trying to maybe keep the minister informed of what measures this new system may be able to use to alleviate stresses and legal liabilities for members of Nunavut so that they can be driving safely.

With that, Mr. Chairman, if you will indulge me, I'll just go on to another quick section. It talks about the \$100,000 in small capital funding for planning work for marine, airport and transportation facilities. What studies has the department been undertaking with this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Part of the answer is that the communities and hamlets, for example, can take part in the consultation on marine infrastructure. The department plans to have discussions with hamlet. The municipality can take the initiative

in setting their priorities and then coming to the department with a proposal. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many communities have participated in this planning in the past? I believe, in one of the opening comments, it says there are 19 communities that have participated in the past. Are there any applications on file right now that are being worked on and what communities they may be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Looking at specific communities in Nunavut, I think the person who can provide the best answer is Art Stewart, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kuksuk. I don't mind, but my colleagues, do you agree to have Mr. Stewart go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Perhaps so that Mr. Stewart can understand properly, if you can repeat your question, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Absolutely, Mr. Chairman. Basically, what I'm looking for, Mr.

Stewart, is what communities have applied for funding under this program right now and what type of projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. The minister said that Mr. Stewart could answer. Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Mr. Hickes is referring to the studies that we can undertake in any one year. This year, we have a variety of studies that we are doing.

For instance, in Pangnirtung and Arviat, there is a problem with the granular supply. We are going to proceed with a study to determine what can be done to bring that granular supply up to specifications.

Also, in Resolute Bay, we had a problem with an oil spill under the airport terminal building there and we are commissioning a study to determine the cost of remediation.

Also, in the communities of Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay, we have bridges that have not been installed yet and we're going to proceed with consultation work to determine what has to be done in order for those bridges to be installed.

Those are three examples of studies that will be carried on this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a number of questions about a deep sea port here in Iqaluit, but to avoid

duplicity, I'll end there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation) Moving on. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finally my turn.

My interest, really, today is going to be mainly around the small craft harbour report.

In the transportation strategy that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in 2009, it said that the objectives are to "Implement the federal Small Craft Harbours (SCH) Program in Nunavut," "Act on the Nunavut Small Craft Harbours [Report], and "Extend the Small Craft Harbours program to other communities."

Can you tell us what is the status of the government's efforts to obtain additional federal support for this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the Small Craft Harbours Program is an important one for Nunavutmiut. However, as a department, we can't fund large projects such as a wharf or port and without that ability to fund it ourselves. We have to rely on the federal government or the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to be more precise, for the funding. That is the only way to move forward, in partnership with them in order to complete the Small Craft Harbours Program.

To date, we continue to lobby and push for these projects to the federal government and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. We will continue to voice our need to have this program funded as this infrastructure is very important to us. That is what I can respond with at this time. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this kind of conversation has been going on for quite some time now. I know that your predecessor, Mr. Taptuna, was also tasked with trying to come up with additional federal support for small craft harbours.

What are your short- and long-term plans in trying to get additional funding? It's such a needed program. Like we have heard, I think, over the years, many members stand up and say that they want more marine infrastructure. What are your long- and short-term plans to get additional funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the short-term plan, our department can use its mandate to fund projects as we have budgeted \$500,000 to assist the communities to purchase the floating docks.

However, in terms of the long-term future, we have to partner with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and we have to visit them to

discuss the identified projects and lobby them to fund the small craft harbour projects. That is the only way we can deal with these issues in the long term in order to fund large infrastructure projects. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Canada has announced that as part of the Building Canada Plan, Nunavut will receive \$400 million for roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure. Can you clarify if this funding is eligible to be used for new marine infrastructure as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it could be used for those. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very happy to hear that because recently, I wrote you a letter. In the letter, I voiced my concern regarding Iqaluit marine infrastructure. We often talk about the deep sea port, which I will mention after this. I'm talking more about hunters' launch pads for boats. We have over 100 boats, I think, in Iqaluit now.

I can tell you from my own experience that it has been quite challenging with the number of boats growing and we

have very little marine infrastructure to support the number of boats that we have in Iqaluit. I think, really, it's becoming a matter of safety when you see all the boats, trailers, trucks, people, children, and everybody walking around while we're waiting to take our turn to either launch to go into the water or for the boats coming back. At the same time, we have the tide issue. We have very long tidal flats that just add to the complexity.

I also think that we have to recognize that these boats and trailers are very expensive. People have invested a lot of money so that they can go and hunt and go camping. This is important culturally as well.

I'm wondering if, as the minister, you would be committed to really looking at this area in Iqaluit. I know that you have provided about \$30,000, I think it was, this year for marine infrastructure, but that really only covered cleaning up some rocks and putting a bit of gravel down. It didn't really address the real problem. I'm wondering if the department could meet with the hunters and go over, perhaps, what the needs are to address this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member. Last summer and spring, Iqaluit's breakwater or boat launch area had lots of boulders and rocks. They cleaned that area up and it cost \$39,000 to remove the boulders and big rocks out of the marine infrastructure

in the tidal area. That's what they worked on.

As I stated earlier on, the government does not have huge sums of money for capital expenditures. I'll use for example the cleaning up of the area of marine infrastructure in Iqaluit. The \$500,000 that we're requesting, as I stated, for small craft harbours, could help to develop the marine infrastructure to improve the marine areas that the harvesters use. The community itself should apply for funding.

I hope that I responded to your question. If I did not respond properly, you can ask more questions. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking at the Building Canada Fund and, like you said, it was eligible for this type of thing.

I guess I'm looking for at least your commitment to follow through and look at the situation that we have in Iqaluit because I think it's a real concern not just for myself but for others too. I think it is becoming a real safety issue and I really wouldn't want something to happen before government reacts to something. Let's try and be proactive and look at the situation because there is definitely a need there.

My other question is: when it comes to marine infrastructure in Iqaluit like the breakwater and the causeway, who owns that infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to who owns (interpretation ends) the causeway and the breakwater, (interpretation) I'll have Mr. Suvega respond to that question. I don't want to misguide you. Thank you.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Primary responsibility falls with the Government of Nunavut, but in terms of things like roadways, they fall within municipal boundaries; the City of Iqaluit. There are other landowners possibly involved; federal departments and agencies as well. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Am I hearing that you don't know then? You are saying possibly. Do we know who owns the breakwater and who owns the causeway? Who is responsible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have Mr. Suvega continue with the response. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Primary responsibility, as I mentioned before, falls with the Government of Nunavut. Having said that, though, we still continue to urge and try and work with federal departments and agencies in investing or continuing to invest in marine facilities throughout Nunavut, including Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the department tell me then if they've had direct conversations with the federal government regarding our breakwater and causeway? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Personally, since I became a minister for this portfolio, I have not had a lengthy discussion in regard to one issue, so I'll have my deputy minister respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had a variety of conversations. Not to specifically point to one, but a range of topics could include things like safety during sealift operations, cruise ship operations, and military operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question, through the Small Craft Harbours Program, how does one go about applying for that and how do you determine what rates a community is going to get? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. When communities themselves are going to apply for funding from our department programs or the access roads program with the \$500,000 that I mentioned earlier, when our department receives an application from either one of the communities, we're willing to review. For example, if a community such as Iqaluit applies to our department and if they make a proposal, we can start working from there. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the proposals that are coming from the communities, do all the communities in Nunavut provide you with a proposal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In some ways, some communities did not make or provide their proposals. There are many communities that provided their proposals, but I can tell you that not all communities made their proposals within that fiscal year. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you ask the communities that did not provide their proposals why they did not make their proposals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the question, no, we don't ask the communities why they didn't make their proposals, but all the communities of Nunavut are notified about this program. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me if he knows why the other communities don't make their proposals? When the money doesn't need to be returned, I wonder why the communities don't make a proposal for this funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I really want to provide an adequate answer, I can't speak for each community as to their reason and I'm sure there are various reasons why they make their proposals. I'm sorry that I can't respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To go on, on September 10, 2013, your predecessor, I guess under the good advice of his EA, informed the Legislative Assembly that all communities were encouraged to submit proposals to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for projects that would improve existing marine facilities.

He indicated that "19 communities took advantage of this program. To date, \$1.6 million has been committed for a variety of projects, including dock upgrades, dredging, boat launches, the installation of floating docks, and the upgrade of sealift areas."

Will you provide a breakdown of the communities and the projects that have received funding during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 fiscal years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I can provide a (interpretation ends) breakdown of the program (interpretation) for 2013-14 and I can provide that information. (interpretation ends) We have it and we can share that information. (interpretation) I believe you asked about the 2014-15 fiscal year, but I'm sorry that I don't have that information with me at this time. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go on to talk about our dock, the deep sea port that we often talk about.

In June of 2010, the Legislative Assembly approved \$532,000 in capital carryover for this project and then we had correspondence to the standing committee on January 6, 2012, where the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation indicated that the cost of the first phase of the project is estimated at approximately \$25 million. The cost to complete the deep water dock is estimated at \$100 million.

At this time, no funding has been identified to advance either phase of this project. However, the department is in regular contact with officials in the federal government and in industry who may have an interest in moving this project forward. As of today, what's the status of the Iqaluit Regional Marine Facility Project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Our department is always working on that and I would like my Assistant Deputy Minister, Jim Stevens, to complete my response to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The House already approved of Mr. Stevens to sit at the witness table when you walked in with the Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) Mr. Stevens, welcome back to the table, but if I may, Pat, (interpretation) please

repeat your question to Mr. Stevens so that you can get a proper response. Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, go ahead.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In June of 2010, the Legislative Assembly approved [\$532,000] of capital carryover. In correspondence to the standing committee on January 6, 2012, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation indicated that the cost for the first phase of the project was \$25 million. The cost to complete the whole thing is approximately \$100 million.

At this time, no funding has been identified to advance either phase. However, the department is in regular contact with officials at the federal government. We're wondering: what is the status of this project today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Kuksuk, you already stated that Mr. Stevens will respond to that. Please proceed, Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I can confirm is that we are in discussions with the federal government. What we are trying to do is put this forward as one of our infrastructure priorities. What we are doing is trying to convince the federal government that additional pre-engineering has to be done. One of the biggest items remaining is to confirm the costs. That will only be done through some additional geotechnical investigations. At this point, we're trying to impress upon them the need for these geotechnical investigations, which will

then, again, confirm the costs for that facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Stevens. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's encouraging to hear. How soon do you think you can get a commitment out of the federal government? It is their election year next year, I believe, so this is a good time to be asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer this to Mr. Stevens again, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't confirm the date that a decision would be made, but I think we have impressed upon them that this is an infrastructure priority. I think we have provided the necessary information to the federal government for them to at least advance their consideration of the matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Stevens. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question: will the minister commit to getting back to us in the House with further developments of a project of that nature? It's a lot of money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes, indeed. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Next on my list is Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Finally. Thank you very much. I'll be asking my question in English so that the minister can understand it properly. I will be asking some of the same questions that I asked in the spring session.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions earlier this year in relation to GPS approach systems and other issues related to airport infrastructure. I appreciate the minister's responses to my questions, which were provided in his correspondence dated August 25, 2014.

In his correspondence, the minister indicated that "a Northern Airports Usability Study was commissioned by the department" and that this study was completed in February of this year. According to that study, the ideal GPS approach for Baker Lake's airport would be a "Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance" system.

I recognize that the department has made a request to NAV CANADA to upgrade such GPS systems in Nunavut, and I look forward to receiving ongoing updates on this issue.

Can the minister specify what other necessary upgrades and projects have been determined in the department's

northern airports usability study? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There is a lot to your question. There are GPS landing systems, but they are under Mr. Stevens' responsibility and I would like him to respond to that one, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. GPS, as everyone knows, is a priority for this government. We have approached NAV CANADA basically with a request to approach NAV CANADA with GPS approaches at all our airports. Actually, earlier this week, we got confirmation that the first GPS approach for a Nunavut airport will be Arviat. They are doing the final engineering for that approach. They will be doing a flight test of that approach later this year and we expect it to be published some time in the new year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Stevens. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where does the community of Baker Lake, which I represent, stand in the GPS approach chart? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I

would like Mr. Stevens to complete the response. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When NAV CANADA looks at which communities are to get GPS approaches, they look at the size of the community, the number of flights that go into that community, and basically the historical missed approaches for every year. On that basis, they determine a prioritization for that community.

At this point, I believe NAV CANADA has all the necessary information to provide a prioritized list. We have asked for that. We haven't received it. I would suggest that a lot of the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot airports are on that list. At this time, I can't give you a definitive position on that list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Stevens. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that you cannot provide the list, but as a department, I'm sure you guys are very familiar and aware that two years ago, if not three years ago, the community of Baker Lake, during the summer, July... I believe it was two or three years ago, it was probably the busiest in Nunavut, considering the fact that we had the highest number of exploration companies revolving around Baker Lake.

My question here is: when the determination is made, what type of

aircraft are you referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Stevens to respond to that one as well if it's okay with you. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the best of my knowledge, it's scheduled flights. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you also take into consideration chartered flights and small aircraft when involving in those studies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That is just a further continuation of the same question, so I would like Mr. Stevens to respond to that, please. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, to the best of my knowledge, it's just scheduled flights. I believe that if there was a high incidence of chartered flights or other general aviation flights, it would be considered by NAV

CANADA. What I can do is commit, through our minister, to get that information back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Stevens. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the official for his response. Can the minister make a commitment to tabling this usability study in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when it is ready and when I am ready to give it to you, I can share it with you. No problem. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to ask if the usability study that is forthcoming... I understand, as indicated earlier, that you guys are basing your GPS lighting system installation with the federal government, but I would also like to be privileged on that. At the same time, I would like your information on the usability study in the airport traffic around Baker Lake regarding small aircraft, chartered aircraft, and also the scheduled aircraft. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. (interpretation ends) I don't know if (interpretation) you have a question or not. I didn't notice a

question, but maybe you would like to comment on that, Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if it's a question, but it seems that he is urging us in terms of what he wants to see us do in relation to taking over the incidences of scheduled and chartered flights. If that information is readily available and we could share it, have it, and present it, then we will. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase my question. I understand that the department already has the usability study within their department regarding scheduled flights. My question here is to the department. According to my knowledge, being a resident of Baker Lake, I believe, in the last two or three years ago, Baker Lake was the busiest airport. Does the department have the information regarding usability regarding small aircraft and private charters in addition to the scheduled flights, and could I be privy to that information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I now understand the question properly in terms of what the member wishes to see. Mr. Stevens, I think, is more able to answer this in terms of availability. I would like Mr. Stevens to respond. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The study was commissioned by NAV CANADA and we would just have to have a simple request to them to release the information. I am suggesting that we could provide any information within the report.

I would also like to add, just in terms of the prioritization of the approaches, one thing that I didn't mention earlier was the actual infrastructure or the type of runway abutments and that type of thing that come into play. For instance, if the graded areas aren't up to standard, it could preclude a GPS approach until the graded areas are widened or the approach ends lengthened. Those are additional considerations that are taken into the prioritization sort of methodology. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In his response to my questions regarding Baker Lake's runway, the minister indicated that the need for runway relocation or expansion in Baker Lake was not identified as a priority in the recent 20-year capital needs assessment.

As the minister is aware, Transport Canada recommends that airports provide runway end safety areas at each end of the airstrip if that airstrip is over 1,200 metres in length. According to Transport Canada, these areas are "intended to reduce the severity of damage to an airplane in the case of undershooting or overrunning the runway." Transport Canada also

recommends that these areas are at least 90 metres in length.

As the minister is aware, the Northern Air Transport Association has previously raised concerns regarding runway end safety areas. If airports are expected to provide runway safety areas, this will reduce the usable length of runways in Nunavut.

As the minister is aware, many communities already have limited options as to where they can locate their airstrips and further reducing the length of the usable runways may prevent a number of air carriers from accessing communities in Nunavut.

Can the minister indicate how many airports in Nunavut are currently operating with runways that are over 1,200 metres in length? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. I'll give it to you this time. I don't know if that's got anything to do with capital, but I'll give it to you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For the question, for the wish list, we will be able to provide him an answer in due course (interpretation ends) at a later date. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I acknowledge what you indicated earlier, but when I look at this capital, my angle on this is regarding my airport in Baker Lake.

On December 12, 2013, Transport Canada released an updated draft of its Aerodromes Standards and Recommended Practices. In this new draft, Transport Canada proposes to standardize its recommendations on runway end safety areas. If implemented, the new standards would apply to airports with runways that are less than 1,200 metres in length if the airports also operate with precision or non-precision approaches.

Can the minister indicate if any of the airports in Nunavut are currently operating with precision or non-precision runways and, if so, how many? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I can provide a return to the question and I'll take it as notice. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Did you say that you will get back to us with that information? Mr. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Yes. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. My time is almost running out.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate how his department is preparing for Transport Canada's standardization

of runway end safety areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): This subject is something I will return with an answer to, which is inclusive in my taking it as notice. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will that be all in correspondence and with the federal documents and the GN usability information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Yes. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the commitment. I look forward to all that documentation.

Moving on to the MVIS, earlier this year, I actually asked about this in the House. With the MVIS, will that be working with CGS and with all the GLOs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes, we are working with the (interpretation ends) Department of

Community and Government Services (interpretation) in relation to that and the communities. (interpretation ends)

Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Hon. Minister. (interpretation) Your time has run out. If you wish to be recognized again, you may. Next on my list is Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll continue where my colleague left off on the Motor Vehicle Information System. In the 2015-16 budget, you have budgeted \$1.2 million to purchase and install the system. In this fiscal year, you had budgeted \$2.8 million, almost double, and you're buying nothing and you're not installing anything. Can you just explain what the \$2.8 million is for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to his question, Mr. Suvega may be more capable of providing an answer of the breakdown of the various components. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of the previous expenditures have been targeted in trying to address the deficiencies in the current system, looking at what improvements could be made, looking at other jurisdictions, and of course, working with other GN departments, namely, Community and Government Services, in trying to design and go out to see what a new system

could and should look like in the future.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity then, you had budgeted that money for the new Motor Vehicle Information System, but you are spending some of it on the old system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to defer the question to my deputy minister. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. These were looking at trying to define what the current problems with the system are, such as the age of the system, what its shortcomings are, and what we want to try and address in what the new system could and should look like, all done in cooperation with other departments like Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume that with the new system, you have decided what you wanted, its capabilities and what it's going to do. With the new system, are Nunavummiut going to be able to walk in, in their small communities for their

general ID and then walk out with their new ID? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes and that's what we want and expect in the future. We want to be able to do those things in the community where they can obtain their driver's licence and identification cards. We're looking for ways that we can improve that. That is our objective for the future. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the minister says that's what he wants, but my question was: is that what is going to happen? I understand about the driver's licence, about security issues, but I'm asking about the general identification. Are Nunavummiut going to be able to walk in their small communities into their GLOs or their hamlets and then walk out with their new ID? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much. I cannot respond to the member whether how it's going to be in the communities because our department is not the only department that is responsible for that. We will have to work with the other communities. For example, we will have to work together with the Department of Community and Government Services and the municipalities. Therefore, I cannot say

that that's how it's going to be. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has spent \$2.8 million and they don't know what kind of a system they are going to have. Is that what I am hearing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Mr. Chairman, no, (interpretation) he is not understanding properly. We know (interpretation ends) what we want and what we should get. (interpretation) We are looking at the best interest of the community and what's best for Nunavummiut. We're not saying that we don't know what we want. Thank you.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister just said that he knows what he is getting: the system. Will this system let a Nunavummiuq walk in, get their picture taken and their information taken, and then walk out with their ID, their general identification card? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I don't think he understands what I'm

saying, so I will have my deputy minister answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For anticipating a client coming in, there are a number of conditions that have to be met when trying to apply for any type of identification card, including general ID. They do have to bring in other pieces of identification and if other conditions aren't met, then other arrangements have to be made, perhaps being identified by other authorizing individuals, such as RCMP and/or clergy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a person walks in with everything they need, all their other identification, to prove who they are and whatever else is required, will they be able to walk out with their new general identification card in the small communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As the member did not understand me, I would like Mr. Suvega to continue responding to the question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we're specifically talking about physically manufacturing a general ID card, currently that is done externally outside of the territory where that still has to be mailed. We can issue temporary written or printed paper that guarantees the identification of an individual, for example, if it's for emergency travel purposes. In terms of the physical card in its current form, it would still come from outside of the community.

Now, the hope in the future is that we're able to have that capability in the future. Will that capability exist with the new system? It will certainly make it easier to convey that information back and forth, but the specific manufacturing of a general ID card, the physical card itself still comes from outside of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go on to a different matter now. Now that we know that we still will possibly have long waiting periods and we hear horror stories of people waiting six months, hopefully this will speed up that process.

I'll just go on to a different matter now. Earlier, I asked about the international airport here in Iqaluit. In the opening comments, it said that \$100 million will be saved.

As I stated, the private partnership company is there to make money and that's what businesses do. They make money.

My question was: is the government ability to run airports so poor that they will be saved \$100 million by someone else doing it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. To the member's question in regard to saving in excess of \$100 million, I'll have Ms. Winmill respond. With the committee's approval, I would like to have Ms. Winmill come back to the witness table. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Since we have already approved Ms. Winmill, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort Ms. Winmill to the witness table. Let one of the officials out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Savikataaq, for Ms. Winmill's information while she is at the witness table, please repeat your question. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was, in the minister's opening statement, he said that the government will save \$100 million through this private partnership of running the Iqaluit International Airport.

My comment is there is a private partnership to it, a business, and businesses are there to make money. That's what businesses do and that's a good thing.

The government is still going to save \$100 million when a business is making money on the project. I just want to know if the government is so inefficient at running airports that they will save such a substantial amount of money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kuksuk, as you stated earlier, I suppose Ms. Winmill will be responding. (interpretation ends) Ms. Winmill, please.

Ms. Winmill: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is encompassing four parts: a new ATB, a new CSB building, a new runway, and airport lighting. By doing this as a P3, we are, number one, getting close to \$74 million from the federal government, so that's part of the \$100 million. Also, the private partner was able to get a good borrowing rate, which would be better over a longer period of time. They will also have the option of concessions and making money off of concessionaires within the airport lands and within the terminal building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Winmill. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reality, we are still saving money, but it's about \$25 million. I assume that the Nunavut government would have got the federal government money if they had done the airport on their own, if they were able to. Do I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For your indulgence, if you don't mind, I will have Ms. Winmill respond. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Winmill.

Ms. Winmill: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the model was evaluated on which way to go forward with this project, it was estimated at about \$100 million at that present time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Winmill. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. Still on airports, but a different matter now. On your small capital projects, you have it broken down there. It's \$800,000 for the whole project and we have an itemized list. One of them is a skid steer and you budgeted \$150,000 for a skid steer. I think we looked it up before as a committee and they may be worth about \$40,000 or \$50,000. I just want clarification if this is a really, really big or good skid steer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Is this a really, really big skid steer? Hon. Minister.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I remember this being asked in the past and I really wanted to find out what a skid steer is. If you don't mind, I'll have Art Stewart elaborate more on the skid steer. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Mr. Stewart to the witness table and escort Ms. Winmill out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For Mr. Stewart's indulgence, please repeat your question. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On small capital projects, the total budget is \$800,000. One of the itemized lists is for a skid steer and it is budgeted for \$150,000. We looked up, I think, a normal skid steer. With shipping and all, it might go for about \$40,000 to \$50,000. We're just wondering if there is something special about this skid steer. Is it maybe a loader that you call a skid steer or something? Just clarification. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq, for repeating your question. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, (interpretation) you had already mentioned that this could be answered by Mr. Stewart. I don't think you have changed your mind. I will ask Mr. Stewart to answer the question.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's not the simple Bobcat. I did some investigation into it. This particular skid steer is a compact track loader. It has a powerful engine, high output hydraulic system, high lift forks and vertical lift design, and torsion axle suspension. It provides maximum performance for work tool productivity, digging, truck loading, and material handling in a wide range of conditions.

The skid steer is required for small jobs around the airport like snow removal around the terminal building doors,

parking lot, hangar doors, threshold lights and pappies, where our standard equipment is too big to do these types of smaller jobs. Attachments purchased with the skid steer include buckets, forks, and blades. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for the clarification. Another question that I have on the same thing is still on small capital. Sometimes wobbly wheels are bought and sometimes compactors are purchased. There is quite a substantial difference between the prices of the two. I'm just wondering what criteria are used on whether an airport gets a wobbly wheel or a compactor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer this question to Mr. Stewart, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A wobbly wheel, I believe, from the question, and I'm not sure whether I got it right or not, but there is some question as to why a wobbly wheel costs... . There was reference to a wobbly wheel in one year costing \$57,000. However, when I checked that, it was actually for two wobbly wheels. I hope I have answered your question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. I can assure you right now that you haven't. I'll get Mr. Savikataaq to ask the question again. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask it again in English.

>> *Laughter*

Sometimes on the small capital projects, a wobbly wheel is purchased and sometimes a compactor is purchased. There is a big price difference between the two. I'm just wondering how the department decides whether an airport gets a compactor or a wobbly wheel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, I'm going to assume that you haven't changed your mind and I'm going to ask Mr. Stewart to reply. Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I honestly don't know what criteria go into determining whether it's a compactor or a wobbly wheel. I can gather that information from our equipment superintendent and get a response back to the MLA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not a question, but just a comment there to the minister and his staff that I am thankful that Arviat will be the first place to get a GPS approach. We have a lot of traffic there too and we have a lot of crappy weather and have no hills to hit. Zero. I think it's just a

perfect place to try a GPS approach out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. That was just a comment. We are on page K-3. Are there any further questions about that page? Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and your officials. My first question would be a request for clarification, if it's okay with you Mr. Chairman. I asked questions last year and the department went through their budget and I think it was \$100,000 for airport studies. Can you let us know if that program has run well? That's my first question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, I was having a hard time understanding the question. If I understood your question correctly, what study were you asking about? I would like clarification on that, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie, can you elaborate?

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking what that was in the minor or small capital of last year. It was explained to us that it was around \$100,000 that the Department of Transportation used to do a study. How has that study been going up until now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand you now. Mr. Chairman, as to an update for today, Mr. Stewart can provide you with that if you don't mind. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$100,000 is not just for one study. It could be a variety of studies. For this particular fiscal year, as I mentioned before, we have several studies on the go. One is a study of the granular supply in Pangnirtung and Arviat. Another one was the oil spill study under the Resolute Bay terminal building.

Another one was the possible relocation of the airport in Kimmirut. That study has not been started yet. However, we are speaking with an airport firm or experts in airports. We're interested in getting them to gather preliminary data that will lead to a feasibility study for that sort of thing.

Again, the other study would be the determination of an estimated cost for the installation of a bridge in both Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. At this time, pursuant to Rule 6(1), using my discretion as the Chair, I now recognize the clock and I will rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Thank you, Minister and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Mr. Joanasie, when we resume our meeting tomorrow, you will be the first one to ask questions. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8 and the capital estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 21... . There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Mikkungwak. All in favour. Opposed. Carried. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for October 23:

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
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 5
 - Bill 6
 - Bill 7
 - Bill 9
 - Bill 10
 18. Second Reading of Bills
 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 8
 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) Item 22. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 23, at 1:30 p.m.
- (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.
- >>*House adjourned at 18:00*

