



# **Nunavut Canada**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

**2nd Session**

**4th Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 24**

**Wednesday, October 29, 2014**

**Pages 1259 – 1341**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. George Qulaut**  
(Amittuq)

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Aivilik)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

**Hon. Johnny Mike**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Environment*

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

**Hon. Monica Ell**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Health*

**Simeon Mikkungwak**  
(Baker Lake)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Joe Enook**  
(Tununiq)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

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

**Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)

**Isaac Shooyook**  
(Quttiktuq)

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

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

**David Joanasié**  
(South Baffin)

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk**  
(Netsilik)

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday, October 29, 2014**

**Members Present:**

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

>>House commenced at 13:31

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, my fellow Nunavummiut and members, ministers, and visitors in the Gallery. Welcome.

**Speaker's Statement**

Before proceeding with the orders of the day, I would like to state that yesterday's sitting, and you may have forgotten or you may have remembered, marked the one-year anniversary of our election to the Legislative Assembly on October 28. Everyone has worked tremendously and all of the proceedings of the government have moved forward.

As we reflect on the work that has been accomplished and the work that lies ahead, I wish to publicly express my

appreciation to my constituents in Amittuq.

I also wish to take this opportunity to note that yesterday's ceremony to honour John Amagoalik was a great success, and I thank my colleagues for their participation in this wonderful event. All the members, ministers, and the Premier were able to attend and I thank you all.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister Mr. Quassa.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 065 – 4(2):  
Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit  
Training Program**

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues and fellow residents of my community, as well as Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to give an update on a valuable training program for Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit in Nunavut schools.

Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit provide personal guidance and counselling to students to promote a positive attitude to education, personal well-being, and healthy lifestyles

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this program is offered in partnership with Langara College in Vancouver, a leader in counsellor training in Canada. Program instructors include long-term, experienced Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijit, Inuit elders, experienced Nunavut educators, and Langara College staff.

Also, a full-time counsellor is available during every course.

(interpretation ends) The Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit training program delivers 11 courses taught over eight sessions. The first course began in October 2012 and the final course will be offered in February 2015. The program includes practicum experiences in the school after each course. We are expecting 17 Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit to graduate.

Mr. Speaker, the program content includes *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit societal values, counselling skill development, leadership and professional ethics, communication skills, and personal development.

(interpretation ends) This certificate program helps us achieve one of the goals of *Qalattuq: The 10 Year Educator Training Strategy 2006-2016* and meet the mandate of *Sivumut Abluqta* to “Continue to invest in the education and development of all current and potential public servants...”

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, our education system is moving forward. This certificate program will give Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit the knowledge and skills they need to support the learning goals of our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Okalik.

### **Minister’s Statement 066 – 4(2): Human Anatomy Glossary in the Official Languages**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to announce that the Department of Culture and Heritage is releasing the first illustrated human anatomy glossary in Nunavut’s official languages. The glossary will improve communications between health professionals, medical interpreters, and patients.

Mr. Speaker, during times of stress, it is common for patients to revert to their first language, their mother tongue. Our elders have long been concerned about the quality of care when accessing health services in Inuktitut. We worked with more than 75 elders, health professionals, and interpreters from across Nunavut to identify medical terms in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun for more than 400 terms.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all those who were involved in completing this critical work, especially the elders who shared their knowledge with us. Sadly, we have lost some of the elders since the project started. I am honoured and grateful, despite the loss to our communities, that their knowledge will stay among us with this glossary.

The human anatomy glossary will be circulated to medical facilities, and be used by the Department of Health and Nunavut Arctic College in providing medical terminology training to medical interpreters.

I would like to invite my colleagues to visit Culture and Heritage’s booth in the foyer of the Assembly and take a copy of



the glossary. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 067 – 4(2): Seal Product Access to the European Union**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** *Unnusakkut*, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2014 the Government of Canada and the European Union released a joint statement on access to the European Union of seal products from indigenous communities of Canada. We are encouraged that this agreement has been reached and that there is recognition of the importance of preserving traditional ways of life in indigenous communities.

Mr. Speaker, hunting seals is both economically and culturally important for Inuit. Seals in Nunavut have a healthy population and are a sustainable source of food, clothing, and income. The intent of this agreement is to allow Inuit and other indigenous peoples of Canada to export their sealskins and products made from seal to the European market.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut remains strongly opposed to the European Union ban on seal products, just as we are opposed to any unfair trade restriction that is based on emotion rather than fact. However, we are supportive of this exemption being established as it may create additional market opportunities for Inuit harvested

seals, especially for value added products.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut will be working with the Government of Canada to on the implementation mechanisms for the exemption, and will be striving to ensure that the process for exporting seal products to the European Union is made as easy as possible. Further, we will continue to provide support to sealers and local manufacturers of sealskin products to ensure that there remains a market for Nunavut seal products. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 068 – 4(2): Canada-Nunavut Job Fund and Job Grant**

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also say "good day" to the people of Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to my fellow members today that Nunavut has signed the Canada-Nunavut Job Fund Agreement.

Starting this month, the Canada-Nunavut Job Fund will be used to deliver the Canada-Nunavut Job Grant and also provide additional funds for existing labour market programs offered in the territory. Through the job fund, Canada's contribution to Nunavut will be approximately \$1 million.

The Canada-Nunavut Job Grant is a new program that will utilize some of this funding and is designed for small employers with 50 or fewer employees and also Crown corporations that wish to target training initiatives for trainees from our smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, eligible employers can receive funding support if they have new or better positions available for trainees and they can make a contribution to the total training costs for each trainee. The maximum government contribution from the grant to the employer is \$10,000 per trainee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our government's participation to deliver these partnership agreements with Canada. Through our continued efforts, we will continue to increase the capacity our valued labour force, as well as connect underemployed and employed Nunavummiut with new and better jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 069 – 4(2):  
Nunavut Community Aquatic  
Monitoring Programs Completed  
in Igloolik, Coral Harbour and  
Kugluktuk**

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be making a statement on the (interpretation ends) Nunavut community aquatic monitoring programs completed in Igloolik, Coral Harbour, and Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, last winter, I brought news of a new fisheries development and training program for Nunavummiut initiated by the Department of Environment.

The Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program, or N-CAMP for short, is a program that is giving Nunavummiut the opportunity to be engaged as stewards of their aquatic resources. This program is unique because it is the communities that define the research, and participants from the communities who are being trained to go out on the land to collect the data required for developing commercial char fisheries.

N-CAMPs have now been completed in Igloolik, Coral Harbour, and Kugluktuk. This program has involved elders, youth, active harvesters, and scientists all working together to achieve a common goal.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtittijii*, we are very proud to report that 28 Inuit have successfully completed the program. In the case of Kugluktuk, the training will allow the community to complete many of its fisheries development and aquatic health projects. (interpretation) We were also pleased to have the (interpretation ends) Hon. Edna Elias (interpretation) participate in the Kugluktuk N-CAMP.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are committed to supporting the communities completed to date to see their fisheries succeed and their concerns answered. We also intend to continue holding more camps across the territory as a central piece of our renewed fisheries strategy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 3. Members' Statements. (interpretation) Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 149 – 4(2): Housing Shortages and Overcrowding in Gjoa Haven

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Uqhuqtuurmiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of housing shortages and overcrowding in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, during the summer months, my office in Gjoa Haven conducted an informal survey of overcrowded conditions in a number of housing units. I want to take this moment to share the results with my colleagues today.

Mr. Speaker, my office met with close to two dozen households and the results were very disturbing. Mr. Speaker, here are some examples: one three-bedroom unit has nine people living within it; one four-bedroom unit has 11 people living within it; one four-bedroom unit has 13 people living within it; one four-bedroom unit has 17 people living within it.

Mr. Speaker, I could continue, but I think that these examples clearly show that Gjoa Haven is facing a serious situation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to invite the Minister

responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to visit Gjoa Haven so that he can get a first-hand understanding of the situation facing my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Member's Statement 150 – 4(2): The Importance of Communication in Health Care

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise a concern regarding the consequences of miscommunication in the delivery of health care services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as a brief example of the kind of situation that must be avoided, a constituent went to the health centre with chest pains only to be told he was suffering from heartburn. He travelled to Winnipeg shortly afterwards and ended up on the surgeon's table after suffering a near heart attack.

Mr. Speaker, our government must make every effort to ensure the quality of services being delivered to residents. The technology for doing tests and making diagnoses must be up to date. The paperwork on clients' conditions, medications, and follow-up must be filed immediately and appropriately. Mr. Speaker, medications prescribed by one health professional should not be haphazardly changed by another professional.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Department of Health has to fly in doctors and other specialists to those

communities which do not have full-time positions. However, these quick visits run the risk of missing something or even changing something like medication without good reason. The lack of continuity and the lack of good communication can adversely affect the quality of health services. We must have good quality control to ensure the good health of our residents. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 151 – 4(2):  
Opening of First Nations  
Community Banking Centre in  
Pond Inlet**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recent opening of the First Nations Bank of Canada Community Banking Centre in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of this full-service banking kiosk on October 22, 2014 allows my constituents to access the services of a chartered bank in the comfort of their community for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the opening of this banking kiosk, my constituents were forced to conduct their banking virtually on the Internet, on the phone, which is not dependable as I pointed out last week, or in person in a different community.

Mr. Speaker, having this service in Tununig provides my constituents with substantially increased access to financial services and programs.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the multi-agency partnership that led to this successful initiative. Nunavut community banking centres are developed under an agreement with Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. The community's new facility is located at the Tununig Saunig Co-op.

I also recognize the Atuqtuarvik Corporation, an Inuit owned investment company, for their partnership with the First Nations Bank of Canada. The vision of creating viable community banking services in Nunavut is moving forward.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to the First Nations Bank of Canada for opening the second facility in the Qikiqtani region and their commitment to community banking.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing this milestone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

**Member's Statement 152 – 4(2):  
Conditions of Government Offices  
in Resolute Bay**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the government's attention to the bad conditions at the Resolute Bay government office building.

Mr. Speaker, the conditions are getting worse as time goes on. There are cracks in the wall and ceiling. It is damp and unhealthy. The workers in the building have moved out and are using space in other buildings because of their concerns for their health.

Mr. Speaker, I have been told that during a previous Assembly, Minister Peterson visited the community and saw for himself the state of the government offices. At that time, the workers believed that something would be done about it. So far, nothing has happened.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that the government provide the community of Resolute Bay with an update on what is going to be done to fix the problem at the government offices in their community.

At the appropriate time, I will table a photograph that shows the bad conditions at the Resolute Bay government offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here is the photograph of that dilapidated building.

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

**Member's Statement 153 – 4(2): The Need for an Elders' Facility in Rankin Inlet**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to encourage the government

to give real consideration to opening a 24-hour elders' facility in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the number of elders in the community of Rankin Inlet is steadily rising and the need for a local care facility is growing.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from a number of different individuals and organizations that the concept of a 24-hour elders' facility has already been raised and a proposal has even been brought forward. However, it does not seem that the government has given any real consideration to bringing it forward. It does not appear anywhere on our capital plan.

Many issues face elders in our territory; health concerns, the lack of appropriate housing, the rising cost of living, not to mention abuse and neglect.

Mr. Speaker, our elders should not have to face the prospect of leaving their families, friends, and community as they grow older and need more assistance.

The government must address the need for a 24-hour elders' care facility in Rankin Inlet at the earliest opportunity.

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

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

**Member's Statement 154 – 4(2):  
Kinngait Fine Arts Studio**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome, everyone visiting the Gallery today.

Mr. Speaker, Cape Dorset art is known internationally and has been for more than 50 years with artists such as Kenojuak and Pudlo Pudlat in the older generation. Also, Tim Pitseolak and Shoovenai Ashoona have been developing national and international reputations in this generation.

Mr. Speaker, recently Google's daily doodle featured a Kenojuak theme on October 3, on what would have been her birthday.

Mr. Speaker, Kinngait's art heritage is a national cultural treasure of which all Nunavummiut should be proud.

Mr. Speaker, since 2010, Cape Dorset has been working towards building a new 10,000 square-foot facility that will have three main functions, which will be a cultural centre, a print shop, and a tourist gathering place.

Mr. Speaker, the entire project will cost about \$10 million. So far, NTI, CanNor, and the Municipality of Cape Dorset have contributed about \$1.3 million towards completing the construction, drawings, and programming for the cultural centre, funding, and project management.

Mr. Speaker, the community is strongly behind the project which was spearheaded by the Municipality of Cape Dorset in partnership with the West Baffin Eskimo Co-Op.

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

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

As I stated before, the community is strongly behind the project which was spearheaded by the Municipality of Cape Dorset in partnership with the West Baffin Eskimo Co-Op. In this partnership, the municipality will own the facility while the Co-Op has committed to covering the operational maintenance costs over the life of the 30-year lease.

Mr. Speaker, this was discussed during the Nunavut Trade Show. Many people were very excited to hear about it.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with all of you, ministers and regular members alike, to help complete this excellent and nationally important project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat [South], Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 155 – 4(2):  
Congratulations, Hannah Suluk**

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a resident of my community for her recent

accomplishment in winning a scholarship.

Hannah Suluk is this year's recipient of the President's Scholarship from the Kivalliq Inuit Association. Ms. Suluk is currently attending her second year of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the efforts of the Kivalliq Inuit Association as it continues to provide financial support for Inuit students studying within and outside of Nunavut.

I believe it is very important that we continue to support our youth as they pursue educational and career goals. Education is a lifelong process, and I commend all Nunavut students for their efforts to continue and wish them the very best as they begin preparing for upcoming assignments and examinations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Hannah Suluk for her recent accomplishment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 156 – 4(2): Polar Bear Overpopulation**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to an issue that continues to spark debate amongst Nunavummiut and that issue pertains to polar bears.

Mr. Speaker, both of my constituency communities are inundated by a high population of polar bears, and the other community in my constituency has one of the highest populations of polar bears in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, due to this overabundance of polar bears at this time, some of our satellite islands where people go to hunt caribou has seen a drastic decline, as the islands are now overrun with polar bears. With the presence of polar bears, caribou have largely left these islands.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to state here is that if we were to follow the principles of IQ, which is something Inuit keep trying to reiterate on this issue of overpopulation of any species, it is not to allow it to continue to rise, but to decrease the population instead to a manageable level. It seems scientists pick and choose from traditional knowledge as they don't seem to believe *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

Mr. Speaker, with that being the case, the HTOs as well as hunters in our communities require more assistance to prove their observations, to have scientists put more faith in Inuit concerns about polar bear overpopulation, and to not simply fight any quota increase requests.

For that reason, at the appropriate time, I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Environment about polar bear overpopulation concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item

5. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, in my role as the minister, I made a Minister's Statement regarding the parties who were involved in the human anatomy glossary outlining Inuktitut terms for parts of the body.

The relatives of some of the elders who partook in this initiative were able to attend on behalf of their elders, so I want to acknowledge and thank the following individuals who worked on this glossary.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the descendants of Nunngat Idlout. I want to welcome Hagar Idlout-Sudlovenick, Brenda Iqaluk, Jeffery Idlout, Kevin Illuarjuk Idlout; the descendants of Sami Qaumagiaq, Evie Qaumagiaq, Nala Qaumagiaq; and the descendants of a fellow Pauloosie, Pauloosie Kilabuk, Elisapee Kilabuk and Sheila Kilabuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge my son-in-law, who I am very proud of. He has worked very hard and helped tremendously. I am very proud of him. I love him. I am very happy about him. I am proud to have him as a son-in-law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand and recognize someone who I met for the first time during my campaigning and I've had the opportunity to speak with her on a couple of other occasions. I hope very much that I'm working to her level of expectation. I would like to recognize Elisapee Kilabuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. I'm sorry, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize an individual who has already been recognized, but this individual has been a friend of mine for a very long time. When I had a sewing shop, she used to be my sewer. She is a very capable sewer, Elisapee Kilabuk, and I would like welcome her to the Gallery.

When I was a chair for Nunavut Economic Forum, she would attend the meetings. She is retired now. Hagar Idlout-Sudlovenick and her husband, welcome to the Gallery. Her husband is not well known, but he is a qualified dentist. He does not practise that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery to all the visitors. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list for sure this time. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation) Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 242 – 4(2): Communication in Health Care

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my Member's Statement earlier, there are some concerns regarding the quality of health services being provided to residents.

Can the minister describe what steps are taken to ensure the quality control in our health centres, from the technology that is used, to the delivery of services, to the maintaining of accurate and up-to-date patient records? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking those questions. The Department of Health has been holding that portfolio for a year and we have a lot of initiatives to include services. For example, in February, we started using a CT scan. Also, in the communities, we have a telehealth

program in the future. We're planning for digital services. That's what we're planning. That's just an example. We are continually working on initiatives to improve the services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I described the experience of a constituent who was wrongly diagnosed and ended up with a near heart attack. Can the minister describe what steps are taken to review these kinds of situations and what steps are taken to ensure that this type of thing doesn't happen again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for his question. Regarding patients who have medical problems or if they would like further information, they could go to the Patient Relations Office to get their problem either rectified or have their concern worked on.

Should you have any problem, you can also talk to the head nurse. There are three regional establishments where they have directors who can also direct your concerns to those individuals before you approach the Patient Relations Office.

If you exhaust all avenues and you do not get a response to the question, then you can approach other individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When different health professionals visit the community for quick visits and make sudden changes to medications or other treatments that have been prescribed, this can have a very bad effect on a client's long-term health.

Will the minister commit to reviewing the processes used by health staff to record vital information about a patient's medication and health history and ensure that it is communicated effectively? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At times, it's okay to see different doctors to get a second opinion. However, if the patient goes to the nursing station and if they do not agree with the treatment or the services that are provided, they can approach the Patient Relations Office to post their complaint. We have head nurses in each of the communities. You can also approach that staff. That could also rectify the problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 243 – 4(2): Addressing the Need for Permanent Nursing Staff in Nunavut**

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

Mr. Speaker, I am sure we all recognize that there are many challenges in staffing our health professional positions in Nunavut.

Can the minister provide an update on what concrete actions her department has taken to increase the number of permanent nurses in Nunavut and reduce the number of agency and casual nurses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the question raised by my colleague with respect to hiring more health care professionals in our communities, actually what I can state here is that we have approximately 65 percent (interpretation ends) occupancy rate (interpretation) of permanent nurse positions here in Nunavut.

In trying to meet the challenge of hiring more nurses in Nunavut, we collaborate with Nunavut Arctic College administration to fill positions in the Nursing Program in order to have more nurses from amongst Nunavummiut. Further, we have training courses available to our existing nursing staff.

At this time, we are planning to place the new graduates in either our local health centres or in the Department of Health offices to undertake their practicum, with a supervisor who is not necessarily their trainer. This is called a (interpretation ends) practicum (interpretation) program that allows the

graduates to work with a registered nurse for a set period prior to receiving their nursing certificate.

These are parts of our efforts to meet these challenges facing us. We also have a human resources position in our office who also serves as a recruitment officer for the vacant positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The most recent business plan for the Department of Health indicates that the Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Plan has been evaluated and will be revised. Can the minister indicate what specific aspects of the plan will be revised? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking about that plan. The staff member who serves as the nurse recruitment officer is a permanent position. This will continue to be a priority here in Nunavut. The work of the officer ever since they took the position has, as I stated earlier, resulted in a 65 percent (interpretation ends) occupancy rate (interpretation) for the positions in our health centres throughout Nunavut. That is what I can share with the member today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 244 – 4(2): Status of the New Wastewater System for Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, I previously asked him a number of questions regarding the new wastewater system for Sanikiluaq, which was approved several years ago.

On March 11 of 2014, the minister indicated that his department is working with the hamlet council to determine a site for the community's new sewage lagoon. The minister also indicated that finding an appropriate site may delay the planning and design of this project even further.

Can the minister indicate what progress has been made to initiate the lagoon project and what his department's timeline is for the completion of it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk. (interpretation) I'm sorry, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been called a lot of names.

>> *Laughter*

Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you for that question from the hon. member. We have retained consultants to develop a design for the new sewage lagoon and there was some geotechnical investigation done. However, the selected site at the time revealed unfavourable sewer conditions. A geotechnical investigation of an alternate site was conducted this last summer of 2014. That also revealed that it was unfavourable as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the ongoing reasons for these delays is, like the minister stated, the geotechnical data that's required. Now it seems it's going to be delaying the project yet again.

Can the minister update us today on exactly what geo-tech data the department requires in order for the lagoon project to get started? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further feasibility studies are being completed so that a decision can be made in February of 2015. Thank you.

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

### **Question 245 – 4(2): Linking Students in Related Fields of Employment**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister of Family Services, who is responsible for financial assistance for students.

Mr. Speaker, including today and over the last couple of days, there have been a number of Ministers' Statements talking about scholarships, the Technical Professional Studies Scholarships, as well as the renewal of the Nunavut Job Fund and Job Grant. I know this government is taking the employment levels of our students and residents very seriously.

Earlier this year, I had asked some questions to the minister regarding the link and the strategy to meet up academic field of students with employment opportunities.

At the time, I made a quote from the public service annual report stating, "aimed at providing employment opportunities that will complement the academic programs of students thereby further encouraging students to complete their studies, develop critical skills" and build critical workplace skills that will contribute to full-time employment after graduation.

Mr. Speaker, at that time, the minister responded to me that she would look into it and try and work closely with departments in regard to students.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister responsible for Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students, they're well aware of every course and every student and what

they're taking. The opportunity to link up with employment opportunities is there. I would just like an update on the status of those discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question about the placement of students in positions. The student work placement program is something we cooperatively manage with Nunavut Arctic College on vacant positions that students can work towards. We also have (interpretation ends) career development officers (interpretation) that work closely with the students who wish to work towards that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I recognize that there are agencies and professionals within the employment field that they work closely with, what I'm looking for is: are they making progress on actually linking student academic studies to job placements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. The students at Arctic College go through the career development officer to receive placements. They can approach the career development officer. That's the

only way I can respond to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do understand that. I know Nunavut Arctic College works very closely with their students to try and match employment with their studies. Some of their courses are specifically tailored to individual roles.

I'm looking at, as just one example, the Technical Professional Studies Scholarship. It links a number of different students that are taking a number of different professional studies that I know are not all at Nunavut Arctic College. What is the minister's department doing to link employment opportunities with students that are studying outside the territory taking professional diploma courses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that question. In wanting to develop a better understanding, the Department of Family Services is moving forward in developing job career opportunities. I basically can only answer in that manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 246 – 4(2): The Need for an Elders' Facility in Rankin Inlet**

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

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my Member's statement, the need for an elders' care facility in Rankin Inlet is growing. I have heard from a number of sources that a proposal or blueprint for a 24-hour elders' facility was prepared some time in the past couple of years and presented to the government.

Can the minister indicate if she is aware of the plan or proposal for a 24-hour elders care facility in Rankin Inlet and, if she is, can she tell us what its current status is? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Health is planning to repurpose eight underutilized beds in the Cambridge Bay Community Health Centre from acute care to long-term residential care. The unit, we are hoping, would be converted to a fully equipped [facility], but at this time, renovations are not required and this would be a good stewardship of an existing government resource. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That wasn't the answer I was looking for, but I'll go on to my second question.

Mr. Speaker, on March 6 of this year, the minister noted that elders over the age of 65 make up 3.5 percent of our population and that the number is growing. She further indicated that a needs assessment would be conducted to determine the long-term needs of Nunavutmiut. Can the minister provide an update on the progress of the needs assessment she committed to? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, Health has committed to a long-term needs assessment of elder care in Nunavut. This is our process that is taking place currently. We hope to have more information by the end of the year and have a report in the new year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no doubt that the need for a 24-hour elders' care facility in Rankin Inlet is becoming more and more critical. It is very sad when elders are sent away to live down south because there is no place to care for them at home. Will the minister commit to bringing home those elders who are being cared for in other jurisdictions as soon as an elders' care facility is opened

in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are always looking at how to bring elders to continuing care. Part of that process is, as I stated in the House before, moving forward with new health facilities, trying to have respite care areas in new health facilities, as an example. The current idea to reuse the Cambridge Bay facility would open beds for those who are in facilities in the other regions once that would be opened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 247 – 4(2): Generator Sets at Cape Dorset**

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked the minister about the replacement plans for the new Cape Dorset Power Plant. Today, I would like some information on what the current plant capacity is at.

Can the minister indicate how many power generators or gen. sets are currently in use at the Cape Dorset Power Plant and what is the total kilowatt output? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is in use today is very dated and old. It is said that the first one can generate 540 kilowatts, the second one can generate 720 kilowatts, and the third one can have an output of 1,000 kilowatts. However, they also have an emergency generator in the event that any one of those fails. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. Can the minister identify what the power usage peaks have been for the community in the last three years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Minister Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is stated that the present generation output of the power plant is just sufficient for the current population and will need more capacity very soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there are one or two smaller backup generators

in place in case they need to be used in emergency cases so that there could be a backup generator. Can the minister indicate if those backup generators have had to be used in the last three years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Minister Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, the Qulliq Energy Corporation brought in two generators by sealift that could be utilized in case any one of the generators fails. They have not yet been used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 248 – 4(2): Foxe Basin Polar Bear Population**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have raised concerns regarding polar bear populations in their regions.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board held public hearings concerning the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board's proposal to increase the total allowable harvest for the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation.

(interpretation ends) On August 24, 2014, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board signed a letter which indicated

that its initial decision concerning the total allowable harvest was disallowed by the Department of Environment and that a new decision would be submitted to the department shortly after September 16, 2014.

Can the minister indicate if he has received a decision concerning the total allowable harvest of the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Johnny Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will take the questions as notice. Thank you.

**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. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

#### **Question 249 – 4(2): Designating a Minister for Elders' Issues**

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, last June, I asked the Premier whether he would consider designating a Minister responsible for Elders' Issues. Can the Premier indicate whether or not a decision has been made and, if not, can he explain why it is taking so long? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the two questions. No, we haven't decided whether we are going to designate a minister specifically for that.

Mr. Speaker, I attended the Council of the Federation meeting in August in PEI. There were five major agenda items and aging was one of them. Elders and aging is a concern throughout the nation, not just in Nunavut. The population of elders is growing throughout our nation. At that time, premiers agreed that there would be a task force set up to investigate some of the impacts and how to best deal with it nationally.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier of Prince Edward Island is the lead on this. There is a task force formed and there will be consultations throughout the nation specifically on aging. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier, for your answer. I hope the task force certainly does come up here and that we all have a chance to hear them out.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have made very passionate statements and persuasive arguments about the issues facing elders. Many of my colleagues have tried to push the elder agenda forward only to have their questions deflected, as it is never clear

which department has the lead in addressing the concerns that are raised.

Can the Premier clearly describe what is the long-term plan of this government with regard to elder issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (Interpretation ends) Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, dealing with a situation like that, long-term plans for dealing with our elders, is not necessarily relegated to one department; it's a whole number of departments. As the member will note, there are a lot of factors that come into play, housing, income or retirement income, and a number of factors in long-term care that is necessary.

As my hon. colleague, the Minister of Health, has indicated, there is a needs assessment that is currently taking place at this level, at this time. As my colleague had indicated, once the consultations are done, I know in fact that there has been contact with a couple of communities and a number of mayors and SAOs. Hopefully, by the new year, we will have a needs assessment done for the better care of our elders.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, this is a national concern, so I look forward to speaking with my colleagues throughout the other jurisdictions to get a better understanding of what type of impacts we've got to deal with up north here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. In light of your response in regard to the program and service review, will the Premier to commit to this Assembly that we will have adequate programs and services in place for our growing population of elders before the end of our term? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very difficult making these commitments because it does take some effort and a lot of partners are going to be involved, but certainly, we will do our best to make sure that we follow up on some of these on the plans that we have set forth.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, this is of national concern and we will certainly work with the other premiers and other jurisdictions, including the Government of Canada, to address these impacts. Certainly, we will do our best efforts to make sure that programs are being put in place for elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my rush to submit the document, I inadvertently made a mistake and I apologize for my mistake as that wasn't intentional.

Mr. Speaker, I want to table this photograph that highlights the dilapidated conditions of the GN office in Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, my expectations are that our government officials will review this photograph and investigate the office conditions in that community at their earliest convenience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): We're on Oral Questions.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): My apologies.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Let me try again. Do you have an oral question? Mr. Shooyook.

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): No.

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

#### **Question 250 – 4(2): Impact of Baker Lake School Closure**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the project for a new school in Baker Lake has been pushed back in his department's latest capital plan. This is a big disappointment.

The school population in Baker Lake is growing very fast and when there is a school closure, such as the one caused recently by a fuel leak, the DEA has to

find a space big enough to accommodate the number of school children.

Can the minister clarify how his department will reimburse the costs incurred by the local DEA to find an alternative location to deliver education services in Baker Lake while the school was closed down? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague from Baker Lake for that question. I can, indeed, respond on this matter. It is a pleasure to hear that the students in Baker Lake have returned to their school in the community. Our expectations were that the issue would be resolved and that they would eventually return. Furthermore, I have been advised of their return.

In the legislation we have, in our *Education Act*, we have provisions relating to the local district education authority's mandate if a school closure results in students missing too many days, as they can review the school year to determine if they can make up the lost school days. They have that ability which is written into the legislation and it is quite clear when that review would kick in.

Additionally, with respect to the total number of school days in the school year, it is generally set at 190 days and that is the maximum number of days. Let's remember that that number is the highest number of school days in Canada

and our school days can reach that maximum number in a school year.

Further, in addition to the number of school days, when the administration is calculating the total number for the upcoming school year, they also set aside specific days allotted to severe weather closures or unplanned school closures. The number of school days also includes a specified amount of school closure days set aside for unplanned school closures during the school year as part of their planning cycle.

Now, our department is grateful to the community of Baker Lake, as they were able to provide facilities for classes, such as their community centre, from September 30 to October 9. The community centre was set aside for the student body enrolled in junior high and senior high classes. These include the grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 for junior high and grades 10, 11, and 12 for senior high classes. We are very appreciative to the community for providing the space, as they set aside the hall for this purpose.

Also, as per my earlier statement, the district education authority has the authority to add more school days if the number of lost school days passes their allotment. They have the authority to change the number of school days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We are fortunate enough that Baker Lake has a

community hall that was large enough to accommodate the number of students that needed to be relocated until the school could be used again.

I am fully aware of when they did return back to the school, which was October 20, on our travel day back here to the Assembly.

A number of community events had to be delayed while the space was being used. Can the minister describe whether his department considers such options as portable classrooms when schools are closed for extended periods of time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. With respect to school closures anywhere in Nunavut, our officials look for alternative spaces that can be utilized for this purpose by working with the local governments.

Now, with respect to a specific school, perhaps I'll make this comparison with the school in Repulse Bay, where the size of the school has led us to use portable classrooms due to the lack of space to house our students. That situation doesn't exist in Baker Lake. We haven't considered that option due to the fact that we have been able to return the students to their school. At this time, we aren't looking into installing portable classrooms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was very nice to hear that he recognized that there were no portable classes available in Baker Lake, as he just stated.

It is clear that the need for a new school in Baker Lake is more critical than the minister was aware. Will the minister commit to bringing Baker Lake's new school project forward in his department's next capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, Baker Lake isn't the only community identified for a new school in the 2016-17 business plan. There are other communities on that list that require funding for their schools.

In reviewing the capital planning process, it is too cumbersome to change them. Additionally, we cannot immediately change our plans with new requests. This capital planning process is followed because it is part of our governance.

What I can state is that the new school construction will commence in Baker Lake, Arviat, and Igloolik. These are the communities identified for school replacement and it is obvious that these will proceed. Nevertheless, the only thing I can't speak to is the completion date.

I can't state that a project can be moved from one fiscal year capital plan to the following year, as this is under the

capital planning process, which is a part of our government operations. I can only respond with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 251 – 4(2): Fuel Tax Rebate Program**

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the minister tabled the Fuel Tax Rebate Program Summary Report for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Mr. Speaker, recently, I was invited to participate at QIA's AGM. One concern that was brought up then and from a number of individuals to me over the past year is the cost of fuel for hunters and harvesters. While I acknowledge that fuel prices have not increased this year, the concern remains about the cost of harvesting for our families and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, in the tabled report, it talks about that in the last two fiscal years, a little over \$1,200 was approved under this program, impacting nine harvesters or hunters across the territory. Mr. Speaker, I think it is pretty clear that we have a lot more hunters and harvesters in this territory working to feed their families and communities.

I'm wondering what the Department of Finance is doing to increase access to this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Hon. Minister Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Hickes, for pointing that out. Not very many people actually read that report. It's interesting that, over the years, almost 99 percent of the funding has gone to mining companies. You would think that the harvesters would access it more.

We have done more in the last couple of years to advertise and promote the program, but the simple fact of the matter is that there are just not that many people availing themselves of the program. We are working internally to see if we can find an easier method for harvesters to access the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the facts that it states on here is a program highlight that in June of this year, the GN sent a letter to harvesters and outfitters who had previously applied to this rebate to encourage them to continue use of the program.

I think the numbers show that, while that letter is directed to people who are aware of the program, there is obviously a lack of communication or a lack of advertising to the general populace on how this program can benefit by alleviating some of the fuel costs. What is the department going to be doing over the next year to access that market? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe, in our business plan, we outlined that our department is going to undertake a comprehensive review of our tax programs. This will be one of the programs we are reviewing to see if there is a way to make it easier for harvesters to access.

I have no explanation of why they are not applying for the program, whether it is not enough publicity, whether we could be working closely with the community economic development officers, the paperwork is too onerous, or they're losing receipts. These are things we will have to look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am hoping at this time, for the benefit of the viewing audience and the people who pay attention to the proceedings in the House, if the minister can give a summary of how somebody could apply to access this program and which office do they contact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Hon. Minister Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that information is on the Government of Nunavut's Finance website. I believe the information can be accessed through government liaison officers in the communities where they are. I believe there is information that is

sent out to community economic development officers. There are a number of ways that people should be able to access the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

#### **Question 252 – 4(2): Assistance for Seniors**

**Mr. Hickes:** I feel very blessed, Mr. Speaker. I get to stand up three times.

I was planning on asking this question tomorrow, but I've got most of the information here.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Family Services.

Earlier this year, I spoke to different federal programs and the level of funding, recognizing that a significantly higher cost of living here in Nunavut for a lot of our seniors who are receiving assistance under federal programs.

At that time, there was a written response to one of my colleagues, Mr. Sammurtok, saying, and I quote, "Initiating such change through dialogue with our federal government would require consultation and involvement of several GN departments."

Mr. Speaker, in the minister's response at that time, she stated that she was going to be speaking to some of her counterparts, specifically with the Minister of Finance, and developing a strategy to speak to her federal

government counterparts to recognize the higher cost of living for our seniors in the territory of Nunavut. Can I get an update on that progress? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member as well for his question on seniors' benefits. The Department of Family Services collaborates with the Department of Finance on these benefits as part of this review of benefits and this is scheduled for completion in the fiscal year 2015. They are still meeting to resolve the issues surrounding seniors' benefits. That is all I can respond with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the minister could describe a little bit more detail in what has been occurring and what the discussions of those meetings have been entailing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for requesting further details on the issues that they are meeting over. As we all know, the federal government has changed the seniors' benefits in the upcoming years as part of the increase in the retirement age, which will impact many residents.

The group is reviewing these types of issues and the benefits that are part of the subsidies program. The Department of Family Services is now aware of the actual cost of food and the cost of living in Nunavut. They discuss these types of issues in those meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the Government of Nunavut is assisting our seniors with some subsidies.

One thing I'm not hearing in the response is the discussions that need to occur with the Government of Canada to recognize that the cost of living is significantly higher here in Nunavut in comparison to the rest of the country. Can I get a little bit further clarity from the minister on the anticipation of how that dialogue with the federal government is or will be occurring? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be able to provide a detailed response. (interpretation ends) I'll take it as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 253 – 4(2): Fuel Tax Rebate Program**

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask more on the fuel tax rebate towards the Minister of Finance along the lines of what Mr. Hickes was asking.

Just to clarify, is there a limit on the amount that the person or individual can apply for this rebate? Is it a limit per person? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Joanasié for the question. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there is a limit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Also, the minister indicated that there is going to be a comprehensive review of the tax programs.

I share the same sentiments as Mr. Hickes in that I think more harvesters and people participating in traditional activities can really benefit from this program.

If the minister commit to working with, for example, the HTAs and HTOs in the communities to maximize this program, can he commit to that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Hon. Minister Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated to Mr. Hickes, we are undertaking a comprehensive review of the program against the policy intents. Obviously, if you read the report, most of the money is going to mining companies, whether they're in exploration, development, or production.

We all know that harvesters in our territories and all of our communities are contributing significantly to our communities. We obviously want to show that we can help them offset the high costs of undertaking the harvesting activities that they do. We will work with the outfitters and hunters and trappers organizations in Nunavut to help us understand the needs of the harvesters and also promote the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. In addition to that, I also noticed here that for the eligibility, it states that for quarrying purposes, people trying to obtain soapstone... .

As I've stated today in the House about Cape Dorset being renowned for our carvings and our art, there are a number of individuals in my constituency that go out to quarry soapstone. I would like to get the minister to commit to do an outreach to those individuals in order for them to benefit from this rebate program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the application form, there is a box that an individual can tick off saying, "I am an individual. I engage in quarrying."

We will again undertake to promote the program to them. If Mr. Joanasie has information for Cape Dorset on how we can promote the program in his community, it would be greatly appreciated. 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. Mr. Hickes.

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

**Committee Report 004 – 4(2): Report on the Review of the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the Languages Commissioner's 2012-13 annual report to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Languages Commissioner's 2012-13 annual report was tabled in the House on May 22, 2014.

The standing committee held its hearing on the Languages Commissioner's 2012-13 annual report on September 22, 2014. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe and was broadcast on local radio, cable, and satellite television. The proceedings were interpreted in all official languages. Transcripts from the hearing are being produced in all official languages for posting on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Mr. Speaker, the Languages Commissioner has three main areas of responsibility: the investigation and resolution of concerns relating to language rights, providing guidance and support to various bodies and institutions, and the administration of her office.

Mr. Speaker, during its hearing, the standing committee raised a number of concerns in relation to the activities of both the Office of the Languages Commissioner and the Government of Nunavut. Accordingly, the standing committee has directed a number of its recommendations to the Languages Commissioner, while others are directed to the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to highlight the thematic areas that are addressed in the standing committee's report:

\*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 4 – 4(2).

- The standing committee's report notes that the Languages Commissioner must lead by example and provide the highest quality of services that her office expects of all other offices and organizations.

During the standing committee's recent hearing, the Languages Commissioner raised a number of concerns in relation to the government's language services, hiring practices, transparency, and annual reporting. In its report, the standing committee addresses a number of concerns in relation to the Languages Commissioner's own responsibilities in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note for the record that the standing committee was disappointed that the Languages Commissioner failed to produce an Inuit language translation of her own opening comments during our recent hearing.

The standing committee notes that the Languages Commissioner recently signed an open letter to the Premier of Nunavut concerning the issue of Inuit employment within the public service. The standing committee's report includes a recommendation that the Languages Commissioner be mindful that her formal reports to the Legislative Assembly are the most appropriate and effective means of raising concerns and making recommendations to the government.

The standing committee also notes that the Languages Commissioner recently hired an employee for her office by way of direct appointment.

In its report, the standing committee encourages the Languages Commissioner to practice fair hiring practice and to fill vacant positions in her office through competitive hiring processes to the greatest extent possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize that the standing committee maintains the view that the Office of the Languages Commissioner must lead by example as it works to meet and monitor statutory obligations, exercise fair hiring practices, utilize appropriate mechanisms to fulfill its mandate, and provide transparency through detailed and comprehensive reporting.

- Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report notes the importance of monitoring the government's compliance with section 12 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, which provides individuals with the right to use the Inuit language when applying for positions and working in the public service. The standing committee's report makes recommendations to the Languages Commissioner in this area.
- The standing committee's report notes the importance of monitoring municipal governments' compliance with section 6 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and subsection 12(8) of the *Official Languages Act*. These sections require municipalities to provide language services to the public. The standing committee's report makes recommendations to

the Languages Commissioner in this area.

- Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report notes the importance of monitoring the status of language services provided by federal departments, agencies, and federally regulated entities. The standing committee's report makes recommendations to the Languages Commissioner in this area as well.
- The standing committee's report notes the importance of establishing policies, procedures, and guidelines to provide direction for government offices as they work to meet their statutory obligations under Nunavut's official legislation. The standing committee's report makes recommendations to the Government of Nunavut in this area.
- The standing committee's report notes the importance of bringing all sections of Nunavut's official language legislation into force. Subsection 12(7)(c) of the *Official Languages Act* and sections 3 through 5 and 9 through 10 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* are not yet in force.

Mr. Speaker, once all sections of Nunavut's official language legislation are in force, third party contractors and private sector organizations will be required to meet their respective language obligations. The government will also be required to establish Inuit language programs for early childhood education and adult education. The standing committee's

report makes recommendations to the government in this area.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee also notes that the Minister of Languages is required to table annual reports under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act*, and encourages the minister to table these reports in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, I would note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to recommendations #5 and #6 of this report, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Hickey. (interpretation) I'm sorry. Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

**Committee Report 005 – 4(2): Bill 5, Write-off of Assets Act, 2013-2014**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 5, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2013-2014*, was reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 5 will be put on the order paper on Friday, October 31.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Hickey.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had forgotten a portion at the end of my briefing.

I would request that the statement I just read be received and recorded into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The report has been received by the House and will be entered into the record as read.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

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

#### **Tabled Document 045 – 4(2): 2015-2016 Planned Construction and Land Acquisition and Development Report**

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 2015-16 Planned Construction and Land Acquisition and Development Report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Shooyook.

#### **Tabled Document 046 – 4(2): Conditions of Government Offices in Resolute Bay**

**Mr. Shooyook** (interpretation): Thank you. I am finally at the appropriate agenda item.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a photograph which shows the bad conditions at the government offices in the community of Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the government will look into this situation and address it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) 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. Bills 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 11 – 4(2), the committee will report itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House resumed at 15:27 and  
Committee resumed at 15:52*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Good day to the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: (interpretation ends) Bills 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the capital appropriation of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services and, if time permits, the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Are we in agreement that we continue with the review of the capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2015-2016 – Nunavut Housing  
Corporation – Consideration in  
Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the committee agree to bring in Minister Kuksuk's witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you very much. For the record, Mr. Kuksuk, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I say "good day" to my fellow Nunavummiut and Arviarmiut. With me today to my right is Lori Kimball, (interpretation ends) President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my left, Tim Brown, Manager of Policy and Planning. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to remind my colleagues that we were on page L-3. Following my list of names, the first one will be Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to continue with a few more questions from what I was questioning yesterday in regard to public housing allocations.

Yesterday, the department stated that they have "expanded the waitlist to include those with arrears to ensure that we capture the full extent" to which is a need in each community. You have changed the communities for 2015-16 that will receive public housing, yet according to your website, NHC's Nunavut housing allocation system, your methodology for allocating units has not been updated since September 9 of 2013.

Can you explain why this document is not updated when you're making changes to the system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps it is unfortunate if the website hasn't been updated, but what I can tell the member is that I will task our departmental officials to update the website. Perhaps this is due to their workload or maybe just an oversight of the staff. Nonetheless, I will task my officials to look into this matter of updating the website to reflect the situation today and to include recent decisions of the Assembly. Thank you very much.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I go back to the tabled document I talked about yesterday from March of 2014, which is where you tabled your preplanning construction and land acquisition development for public housing and staff housing, for that matter, back then, you stated where public housing would go for 2015-16.

Now, yesterday, you stated that you will be "distributing the 2015-16 Projected Construction Report," which you only tabled today. What was the delay in getting this new document to us and why are we only receiving it the day after we start deliberations on the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This could be due to a myriad of reasons that cause the delay, but earlier today, I made a statement that for the fiscal year

2015-16, this was part of our future construction plans.

Since I can't respond to this question about the exact cause of the delay and why it was only provided today, if I had the information, I would provide the answer. Nonetheless, I am sure that Ms. Kimball can answer the question about the reason for the delay. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things we endeavour to do is to get as accurate and up-to-date information as we can. We used the August 31 waitlist information, which we acquired in early September. It took some time to prepare the analysis of waitlist as a percentage of staff as well as to contact the LHOs that were at the top of the list and do some work to verify their waitlist, and then there's a process to have it tabled that went through cabinet. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may recommend to the department, in the future, they could get these documents to us sooner so that we can use them as tools in our deliberations of the housing corporation's budgets.

Also in your tabled document, from March of 2014, you stated where staff housing would be allocated in the coming years. Again, in the document you tabled today, you have also changed the staff housing allocations to different communities. Can you explain why you

have changed the communities for staff housing also? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to staff housing, we know that there is a shortage of Nunavut Housing Corporation housing which is provided in communities. There are situations where there needs to be public housing and staff housing then is needed. There are many factors that go into why things change. It's not just the housing corporation that is experiencing these things. Other departments are also experiencing similar staff housing shortages and they vary their decisions accordingly. I can respond with that at this time. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Eight months ago, it was a priority to have staff housing in Resolute Bay, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, and Kugluktuk. Eight months later, these priorities have changed. What has changed in the communities so that now they have to change where staff housing is going? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The allocation of staff housing planning goes up to 2015. In relation to public

housing and staff housing, in the fiscal year 2015-16, communities will be allocated with a number of housing units, which we elaborated on yesterday. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to ask my question a little differently.

The three communities that have been added to your list for staff housing are Kimmirut, Hall Beach, and Coral Harbour. What factors in these communities led you to add staff housing in these communities before adding it to the communities that you previously stated, as in Chesterfield Inlet and Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): There is no change. There were nine units last year and this year, there will be five more added. There was no change in the number of staff housing units that will be allocated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The tabled document from March 12 states that for 2015-16 construction, there will be staff housing in Resolute Bay, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, and Kugluktuk. The tabled document from today for 2015-16, which is the exact same year as the tabled document before, now states that staff housing will go to Kimmirut, Hall

Beach, Resolute Bay, Coral Harbour, and Whale Cove. The number of units may not change, but the communities have changed. I would like an explanation as to why or what factors led to these changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The four housing units in the Kivalliq region are for 2014-15. The others are in a different fiscal year, which is the 2015-16 fiscal year. I think the hon. member is confused about which fiscal year it is. In the Kivalliq region, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, and in the Kitikmeot region, Kugluktuk are for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The other five units are planned to be constructed in 2015-16. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only read the document the way I see it and it's listed below 2015-16. Just for the record, the tabled document from March 12, the staff housing allocation for Resolute Bay, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, and Kugluktuk is still going ahead. The tabled document from today, for Kimmirut, Hall Beach, Resolute Bay, Coral Harbour, and Whale Cove, is additional staff housing that will be built in the following year. If I am correct, that will be my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, that is correct.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$30,072,000. Following the list of names, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To start out with, from the opening comments, the minister stated that he's introducing new community-specific, index-able, and realistic income eligibility limits for homeownership programs from the \$125,000 income eligibility. Can the minister give us a little bit more detail on how they are going to be indexing realistic eligibility limits on a community-by-community basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Good question. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Previously, there were questions relating to this issue in the House and we were mindful of those questions. We were going to deal with them and we did deal with them.

Situations change in terms of the threshold for income limits. The limits will be adjusted annually, which will be (interpretation ends) based on the costs of (interpretation) such things as



(interpretation ends) land lease, taxes, foundation, materials, shipping, water and sewer services, (interpretation) and so on. These will be changing every year. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that some of you had a number of questions regarding the income eligibility limits because I have raised this issue since I have been first elected. I think access to the different homeownership programs in Nunavut, specifically Iqaluit, with the income threshold that was there previously, sets people up for potential failure.

What information can the minister give me that will help ease my mind that the people who will be eligible now under this program will be able to be financially stable to accommodate homeownership in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to your question, there are different limits for each community, as this is set up for each community based on shipping costs. As an example, a unit that costs \$158,500 to construct in Arviat would cost about \$186,000 in another community. There are different reasons, but I am just using this example. I don't know if my answer is adequate. Although that may be the case, there are different reasons used to set the limit.

With respect to the reasons why there are different limits on the income threshold, when we reviewed the income threshold limit, we used CMHC's data to set these limits. The community limits were set using CMHC data to set the income threshold and that was the formula for setting a limit for each community and thusly, the difference between communities. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, using Arviat as an example, you mentioned a \$158,000 income threshold eligibility limit. The previous program eligibility had, as an example, \$5,000 per dependant eligibility income increased. Is that still the case with the current program that's being implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That has not been changed; it's at \$6,500 (interpretation ends) per dependant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** I appreciate that response. Thank you. There is a project here in Iqaluit that was stated yesterday that was deferred due to a land issue here in Iqaluit. During the spring sitting, I had asked some questions regarding the lack of land availability within the city of Iqaluit and mentioned that there's a

proposed subdivision in the works from the city down the Road to Nowhere area. There was mention that the city and NHC have had talks. I'm wondering if maybe the minister could elaborate a little bit on what they are doing to deal with the current lack of land availability here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the situation is as he stated. With the City of Iqaluit, there were some issues in trying to move forward with land and lot availability. However, we have now spoken with the city. For example, the zoning of the lots is what they are working on right now at the city. It is a work in progress with the city. Thank you very much.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm actually going to take a step back into the homeownership programs and home renovation programs.

In the minister's opening comments, he had mentioned that there are some funding limits and, obviously, the new criteria, but one of the things that kind of jumped out at me was the addition of contractor travel into the home renovation programs over and above the allowable limits. Just to clarify: is the contractor travel over and above the allowable renovation limits? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That is over and above. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, the way I read it is only if there are no local contractors available to do the work. What is to stop somebody from searching out contractors who can do the work cheaper than a local contractor and get that work done in anticipation of it not impacting the renovation budget, as the travel is over and above the existing limits? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood my colleague's question properly, with respect to this issue, some communities have to import contractors to either do renovations on public or private units due to the fact that they don't have qualified contractors in their community.

The ability to import contractors into communities was something we moved forward since a lot of concerns were expressed surrounding contractors. We had to resolve these concerns after receiving concerns over several months in this House. The budget for the renovations or for construction costs didn't include this additional cost, so we had to add the cost of the contractor importation.

For some of the smaller communities, there are no local contractors available as opposed to the larger communities or available qualified construction workers. Due primarily to this reason, we had to ensure that these additional costs were added to include the possibility of importing contractors to that community and to not pass along these additional costs incurred by the homeowner.

With that in mind, the additional costs can be added in cases where there are no local contractors and this applies where the communities don't have these resources or contractors. That is the reason for the additional funds.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'm being a bit of a worrywart, but my concern is if there is a contractor available... I'll just make a hypothetical example. If I'm accessing the full \$65,000 available for a home renovation project using the energy efficiency and the \$50,000 limit, I can get \$65,000 worth of work done.

In quite a few cases that I'm aware of, there's typically more work being done that's out of pocket. Let's say I'm getting \$80,000 worth of work and I'm kicking in the additional \$15,000 out of my pocket, if I can find a contractor who can do that \$80,000 project for \$65,000 within the budget line from another community, what's to stop me from utilizing that outside-of-that-community contractor and bringing them in because I know it's not going to cost me any more for their travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, he is asking what would be stopping you from going with an outside contractor that will be cheaper. If there is anything to stop that person from getting an outside contractor to do the work in the community, I think Ms. Kimball can provide a better response to that.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For any home repair application, our technical staff does participate in the scope of work. We do review the request for funding. As part of the implementation of the contractor travel, NHC will need to be part of the decision to allocate funds for travel. We wouldn't authorize that if there was a contractor from the community. Typically, the contractor from the community should be a lower cost since the resources are all there and they're not incurring those additional hotel and airfare costs. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I realize, typically, that's the case, as you guys can speak from experience, that's not always the case.

One of the issues again with some of the... I'm applauding the housing corporation for changing some of these parameters, eligibility limits, and even

limit increases, for example, the heating oil tank replacement, bringing it up to \$7,500 of coverage. What has the uptake been on these programs in the last couple of years? Are all the dollars being expended? What type of impact is this limit increase going to have on the overall budget?

I noticed none of the budget lines increased to coordinate with the limit increase on funding. In my opinion, that will mean [fewer] households replacing their oil tanks, as an example. There are also other programs that are applicable. If the minister could respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Those concerns were raised many times to us and we heard them in the corporation. They were telling us that the figure was too low to remove the old tank and replace it with a new one, that there was not enough.

I want to make sure I say this so that you can understand me in Inuktitut and I apologize if you don't understand.

I can say that we had a lot of questions about the oil tank replacement subsidy. Your question has something to do with how much better we are going to use our finances. Are we going to stay within budget or are we going to go into a deficit because of this? I can tell you that we're not going to go over the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, I do applaud some of these changes. I think a number of us have made some recommendations along these lines. I recognize the corporation for adapting to some of the suggestions.

Again, I'll just use the oil tank replacement program as an example. With the limit increase of 50 percent from the previous program limit, estimating to do 100 homes per year, now we're looking at doing 75 per year. With the uptake under that Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program, those 75 tanks being replaced, is that going to meet the current need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We believe it will, but if you will allow Ms. Kimball to add to my answer further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though the limit is \$7,500, in the past when the limit was \$5,000, we did have a number of applicants, but the actual cost was much lower than that. We actually were able to provide approvals for more than the 100 applicants that was our target.

As well, depending on the overall range of applicants and demand across the whole of homeownership programs, we

could always re-profile money from within the whole homeownership budget. Once we see that demand come in, we can revise our ask as we go forward for future budgets. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How often has NHC had to re-profile dollars from budget to budget under the homeownership programs? What I'm getting at is: are some so underfunded that they're having to continually take money from other programs to supplement the need in specific programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow Ms. Kimball to continue with answering those questions. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For an example, for last fiscal year ending March 31, 2014, we had 112 approved Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program applications, but we only spent \$330,000. We do have some carryover from prior years in relation to this specific program.

As you will note in our budget, we have three line items for homeowner programs. We have \$116,000 for seniors and persons with disabilities preventative maintenance program, we have the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program, and then we have a \$4 million

line item for all the remaining homeowner programs. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave those budget lines alone for the moment. I'm sure some of my colleagues may have some questions on it.

In the most recently tabled annual report for 2012-13, it indicated that there were 213 pending or waitlisted applications under homeownership programs as of March 31, 2013. One, why hasn't the overall budget been increased? You have answered partially on that in your last response. Two, what is the current number of pending or waitlisted applications? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Kimball to continue to respond to the question. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The pending and waitlist, just to be clear, is not generally caused by lack of funding. It's to do with the timing of when the applications come in and the time required to process the applications.

For instance, when we get into down-payment assistance, we get the application that would remain pending until the close of the sale on that home

before we advance the funds. There are some timing aspects, as well as timing aspects with coordinating with contractors and being able to coordinate the actual work activity.

As of March 31, 2014, we have 293 pending and waitlisted applicants. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his staff for that response. I just wanted clarification on the land issue/challenge. I believe it was a ten-plex that was supposed to have been built in Iqaluit. Is that project going to be proceeding in the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the land or lot issues for the ten-plex units the member referred to, it would be the City of Iqaluit that has to resolve the lot issues before the construction can proceed. If the lot issue is resolved, then yes, that project would proceed. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$30,072,000. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon and welcome. I would like to go to your opening comments. You talk about the

Mobile Equipment Fund. Just for the record, can you tell us what the Mobile Equipment Fund is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The (interpretation ends) Mobile Equipment Fund (interpretation) is specifically for LHO vehicles in those communities and the purpose is for vehicles, whether they purchase vans for their workers and further, for each (interpretation ends) district (interpretation) office in the regions where they have to purchase vehicles. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for his response. I see that you have a little over \$1 million for the 2015-16 year set aside for the Mobile Equipment Fund. Can you tell us how many vehicles you're purchasing with that amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that number with me, but if we have it, we can look it up. I don't have the exact number off hand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to receiving that information.

To go on again, in your opening comments, you said that the Nunavut Housing Corporation “has saved close to \$10 million in the delivery of the \$100 million in federal economic action plan funding.” Can you explain to us how you were able to save the money under this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The cost-saving measures the Nunavut Housing Corporation implemented were in various areas, such as the design and construction costs of the units, as there were many other areas subject to these cost-saving measures. That was how we were able to save that amount.

With respect to the different areas that are identified in the report, I would ask that Ms. Kimball be allowed to answer the question with details. She can lay out how these measures resulted in saving this amount identified, if she can be allowed to respond to the question. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the \$100 million that we received this round, we did determine we would go entirely with ship, supply, and erect tenders, which ensured that we didn't do a separate bundling of material and labour. That has been able to

minimize change orders and any subsequent and unexpected costs because it really firms up the contract.

As well, we did some changes with some innovation to our designs. By doing ten-plexes in communities that had higher land costs, we were able to do more with the same space of land. As well, we implemented some changes to our org. for some CMHC-funded positions that allowed us to make sure there was proper project management and oversight all the way through from the design and planning stages, through the tendering, and now monitoring as we construct. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. Seeing that these kinds of initiatives are now in place, are you planning to continue to use them so that you can continue to save money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, of course. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, in your opening comments, you talk about “a commitment to ensure more affordable housing options and alternatives are available to meet the varied needs of Nunavummiut, including the needs of a growing elder population.” Can you

explain to us today what your plans are to address our elder population housing needs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In providing housing to our growing population of senior citizens, I know that it is not just in Nunavut. There is a population growth of seniors in the whole of Canada. We are working on a (interpretation ends) blueprint for action plan on housing. (interpretation) Using that, we can move forward and consider future options to provide senior housing. That's what we have considered. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me then, in light of the action plan and he mentioned that the action plan addresses the elder population housing needs, under this \$10 million for public housing units, how much of this is for elder housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, we are trying to move forward with looking at the whole picture. We're trying to make a (interpretation ends) blueprint for action on housing.

(interpretation) I don't know exactly how many units we are envisioning that will be used for senior citizens, if I understood you correctly. Perhaps I will have Ms. Kimball elaborate on the number of units. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2015-16, out of the 45 units, the nine five-plexes that we're proposing to construct, there are no plans for any of those to be seniors' units. The 10 units that are on pause for the City of Iqaluit, it is our intention to make that a seniors' facility if we're able to acquire appropriate land.

At the same time, part of our strategy going forward and part of the development of the blueprint for action is working in partnership with Family Services, the Department of Health, and a number of the different entities within the GN to look at Nunavut pilot project initiatives that we could undertake, particularly looking at some of our larger public housing homes that may be underutilized in the communities and potentially looking at a pilot project to do something as an assisted living.

There are some challenges around that. Depending on the degree of care, it does change building code requirements, which then puts it more into an institution as opposed to a residential unit. Those are things that we are working on in the background to kind of clarify those things before we move forward. Thank you.



**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Kimball, for that. In light of what you said, can you tell us, then, with the ten units and with your consultations with the other departments of Health and Family Services, do you have a timeline that you can provide us where we can actually see elder housing being built in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand exactly where you are coming from or maybe not. Is that question Nunavut-wide? I would like to have the member clarify her question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm talking about Nunavut. This government is responsible for Nunavut. We have a lot of communities that require elder housing.

My question is, for example, you had the ten units in Iqaluit and you have other ongoing conversations with the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services regarding elder housing and the different kinds of elder housing. It might be assisted living or 24-hour care. At the end of the day, what kind of timeframe are we looking at before we actually see these buildings being built in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We don't have specific timelines yet, but with the (interpretation ends) blueprint for action plan on housing, (interpretation) we will be using that as a blueprint and it will involve the Department of Family Services and other departments to get involved. As departments working together, we will define what the timelines are going to be. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I'm so concerned about this is because when we were speaking with the Minister of CGS at one point, we were made to understand that once a project has been identified as a priority of the government, it goes on the capital list and it's identified as a priority. It usually takes another five years before anything is built. It's just the nature of government; we're very slow in what we do.

I'm concerned that you don't have something already identified like elder housing. How long is it going to take to get on that list? And then we're going to have to wait at least five years minimum after that date. That's why I'm bringing this up. I'm trying to push this because we have waitlists now. We have communities that have no elder housing. This is a critical area that I really want to draw some urgency to because we need to address this. We all need to be on the

same page with this matter and that's why I'm really pushing for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I do have other questions, but they may want to respond.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This question from my colleague involves two departments, the Department of Community and Government Services as well as the Nunavut Housing Corporation. They can both deal with this issue, so you can approach either department as there are slight differences.

That is a very good question about this issue, Mr. Speak...oops, Mr. Chairman. I almost called you Mr. Speaker. Ms. Kimball can respond with specific details to the member's question with your forbearance. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CGS' planning horizon is longer than NHC's simply because the buildings they construct are much larger and much more complex. For NHC, our typical planning horizon is usually about two years from start to finish, so we're able to be a bit more responsive.

Because we have the budget planned and we do have a five-year horizon on our public housing funding planning, if we are able to identify projects, we should be able to redirect as long as we meet the

tendering timeline, which again is about the two-year horizon. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I look at the budget here, I don't see anything that says "elder housing." I know you said that there are ten units and there is \$10 million that is for public housing units. You have an action plan that identifies elder housing. Where is the budget for that and how much is it at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to provide a hurried response and I want the member to receive an appropriate response. In order to clarify this issue, I would like to refer this question to Ms. Kimball. I am a bit confused about this, so I would not be able to respond clearly.

Furthermore, with respect to the (interpretation ends) action plan, (interpretation) which we are discussing at this moment, (interpretation ends) the blueprint for action (interpretation) will result in the start of the planning process of the issue we are debating, for example, for the elders' housing units. It is included in that plan about how the planning process would be initiated as per my earlier statement.

However, I would ask that Ms. Kimball be allowed to respond to the members' question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our public housing construction budget would cover any new facilities if we were to build a new residence dedicated to seniors.

However, the discussions that we're having right now with the Department of Health are to really try to get some numbers in terms of what the volume of assisted living would be, the degrees of assistance that would be required, and what level of care because it can range from just having someone to provide some basic services to, for instance, a facility for Alzheimer's. It's a completely different thing.

If we're able to use a five-bedroom home for some light assisted living, we can actually re-profile existing stock. That's something that could actually be done in a fairly short amount of time. It's more the research that needs to go in, in terms of the logistics of how that would work and all those details. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Kimball for that as well. I'm happy to hear that you're able to speed things up. I'm wondering: when do you expect this new research to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If I understood your question with the (interpretation ends) blueprint for action plan, (interpretation) we're going to be starting work in the fall and in 2015-16, we will put together a report on what we have found during this research. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In keeping with your opening comments, you talk about increasing the limit of the seniors and persons with disability preventative maintenance program from \$1,500 to \$3,000, but when I look at your substantiation sheet, it actually says \$1,500. Is the new amount \$3,000 or is it \$1,500? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's \$3,000. (interpretation ends) The new amount should read \$3,000. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says in the substantiation sheets that it's 77 clients. I'm wondering how many applicants were denied under this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For 2013-14, there were four that were declined. Part of the reason was arrears. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you explain to me too this amount, is that for the lifetime of an applicant or is that per year that they could access it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's per year. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the budget, I don't see any plans to increase that amount. It stands at \$116,000 for Nunavut. Are there any plans to maybe look at that again and see if you need to increase the total amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's that amount for this year, but if we're looking to the long term, I'm sure we will be able to do a review of it at a later date. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, at one time, I had spoken about how complicated the application process was for really quite a small amount of money. I think seniors had to get three years worth of salary, if they had any. I don't know. There is a lot of paperwork that they have to fill out. Is that still the case or have you adapted that now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That has been a concern over the years since it was created. There are a lot of forms. I know the money is minimal, but there's a lot of paperwork involved. We have made it into one form, one page, and we will be using the CRA form. That will be the only form that they will have to fill out. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us then, if a senior citizen applies for a program and it's granted, "Here's my income, I'm a senior citizen, I'm 75 years old, I don't work, I get limited funds," and then the next year, they apply again, you want them to say the same thing all over again, even though they have actually aged by a year?

Why do they have to keep proving every single time when senior citizens around that age, very unlikely, they're going to work and going to be earning a lot of money and it's very unlikely that their

situation has changed? Is that something that the Nunavut Housing Corporation can look at in making the application process a lot simpler? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is for that exact reason that we have recommended improving the application process to be a single form application through the CRA process. If an applicant is applying for the benefits, they only have to fill out one form, which is a (interpretation ends) very simple form (interpretation) compared to past-year application forms. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go on. My colleague talked about heating oil tank replacement. We talked about the fact that you have a program to access this kind of service where you wanted your tank replacement. In the House, I have stood up and I have talked about recycling and my concerns over that. What are you doing with all the old tanks? They seem to be, I think, going to dumps. Are you assisting the community in dealing with all these oil tank replacements? I don't know if you have been doing this for public housing units, but where are they going and what's the plan in dealing with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Relating to oil tanks that are collecting, these concerns have been raised about the collection of so much metal. Mr. Chairman, there is a (interpretation ends) waste management program (interpretation) that concerns itself with the disposal of numerous metal wastes that are collected. Community and Government Services and the municipalities are the ones that have the responsibility of dealing with these things. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following the names on my list, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the stuff has been covered, but I just have a few here.

Just earlier, Ms. Kimball stated that ten-plexes are being built where land costs are high. That way, they go up if you're using more land, which makes sense. I know that some communities prefer five-plexes. If the land cost is reasonable in that community and the cost of gravel is reasonable in that community, then the community would rather, instead of getting one ten-plex, get two five-plexes. Would that be considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation):  
Yes, we can consider those things.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for that response. I know that in Arviat, when I was on the hamlet council there, they did request if the housing corporation could build five-plexes instead of ten-plexes and they were told no. This was about two years ago. I am glad that now you have reconsidered because it may be cheaper, but there are other social issues that come with building a whole bunch of ten-plexes.

Staying on housing but a different subject, staff housing, in your substantiation sheet, there is \$5 million for staff housing and you also say that you are exploring other options, such as construction of larger multiplexes in communities with greater needs. I see that most of the staff housing is duplexes. Also, you are looking at purchasing existing buildings to be added as staff housing inventory in communities where these buildings are available. Have any decisions been made regarding the use of these approaches? Are there any current plans to buy any existing buildings and turn them into staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Relating to the issue of staff housing and the shortages thereof, we will begin to look into the shortage of housing

everywhere, for everybody, in every community. Everyone is aware of this issue. In some communities, it may be possible, if there are leases or we could lease private homes and houses, then we would look at the issue of leasing private housing to be used by our staff.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister just stated that if there are staff housing needs in the community and there is a private enterprise that may be able to lease them staff units... Can the minister just explain the process or who these private or potential [lessors] are? What's the process and who do they go see to possibly lease one of their units for staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we go this route of leasing for the purpose of using them for staff housing, we would need to go through the request for proposals route. If we got responses, then we could make an appropriate move.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any RFPs right now for staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): I'm not aware if there are some. Ms. Kimball would be the best person to provide that information. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did go out for a request for proposals this past spring. We are actually working on preparing another request for proposals. The request for proposals will be looking not just for existing units, but also trying to find if there are any plans for new units to be constructed where the owner would be looking to lease it within the next two years. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These requests for proposals, you said you put one out and now you're putting another one out, are they community-specific or are you just asking for one that's Nunavut-wide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those requests for proposals are geared towards specific communities. Let's use an example of Arviat. If we want staff housing in Arviat, we would put out a request for proposals in that community. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for saying what they're going to do, but Ms. Kimball said they did put one out. I would just like to know if that one was community-specific or was it Nunavut-wide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to further complicate the process and befuddle everyone, so I would like Ms. Kimball to answer the question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We advertised the one that we put out in the spring for any community in Nunavut, so it was Nunavut-wide. However, the respondents can respond to specific units within each community. They didn't need to be able to provide units everywhere. An individual with one home, for instance, could respond and have their home, in a given community, and put forward a price that they would be willing to lease to us for. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was this RFP successful? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): I would like Ms. Kimball to go further

into that and be more specific.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It wasn't as successful as we hoped it would be. We did receive quite a few responses, but we are hopeful that in the second round, with lessons learned, we can do a little bit more in terms of advertising and communicating with the private sector. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I should rephrase it instead of using the word "successful." Did it result in the housing corporation acquiring more staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it did. Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask: how many? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Again I want the answer from Ms. Kimball. She will have the numbers. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact numbers with me, but I can tell you that our budget had increased by \$2 million annually and we have fully expended that additional funding for those new leases. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to a different matter, in your budgets, you have talked about a lot of initiatives that will be coming on for next year's budget about replacing local housing associations' offices/workshops and the budget in there is for \$3.2 million.

With that \$3.2 million, the scope of work is to get one 40 by 100 warehouse, which would be the maintenance shop and admin. offices and a warehouse, and then another 40 by 60 heated garage for, I assume, storage of vehicles and other stuff, and then a 100 by 40 foot fenced-in and enclosed area for storage.

I wonder if it's realistically possible to build that in there because currently, right now, when you build a Department of Environment office/garage, and they're roughly 30 by 40, the budgeted amounts are at \$2 million. I'm just wondering if they're going to fine-tune their pencils a little bit more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk:** Thank you, *Itsivautaaq*. (interpretation) This issue the member is asking about is in the 2015 fiscal year and they are called



(interpretation ends) class “A” estimates (interpretation) within the budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 and this will be looked at then. Additionally, we want to use the same standard or rather, to have similar standards developed for these (interpretation ends) warehousing facilities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last question just to follow up on my colleague, Ms. Angnakak. She was talking about the fuel tank replacement stand, wondering what’s being done with them. It’s probably going to the landfill. I know that’s the CG&S department, but are there any guidelines for what the housing corporation does in that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is under the (interpretation ends) waste management program (interpretation) operated by the Department of CGS for purchasing furnaces or boilers that require replacement. It falls under that (interpretation ends) program (interpretation) and that is how it was set up to operate. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. My colleague, Ms. Angnakak, talked about elders’ buildings.

Has the Nunavut Housing Corporation or other departments talked about getting any homeless shelters? Earlier today, I talked about a lot of people living with their relatives in their homes. I applaud the house renters who put in a lot of people into their homes, where they sleep on couches and even in the porches.

I’m just wondering if you guys have ever talked about any homeless shelters in Nunavut in the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I remember my colleagues asking about this. At Nunavut Housing Corporation, we haven’t made any plans to put up homeless shelters *per se*.

However, homelessness is dealt with by the Department of Family Services. However, we are working with them and the Department of Health to try to do some work on this. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$30,072,000. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be a great idea to work with the Minister for Homelessness along with you guys and also with CGS. Maybe you could talk to them. We do need that in the smaller communities. We’re just not putting names out there

for the sake of saying that there are a lot of people not living in a home.

For the other one, we talk about private homes being leased as staff housing. There might be private companies that are buying houses right now that are being taken over by the banks and the private companies are buying the homes. They might be thinking along these lines. Is there a cap on how much they can ask for a rate and how much they can pay or how much the government can pay to the private company? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If I understand his question correctly, you're asking how much money can be borrowed from the bank in order to convert the house into a rental unit. If I understand his question directly, we would have to come up with a good understanding with the companies or individuals we would lease from or if the corporation would buy a house, we have to make sure that there are no financial liabilities attached to that unit. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking if a private company buys a homeowner's house that has been taken over by the bank. There are some homeowners that lose their homes for some reason and a private company buys that home and they would like to make it into a staff house. How much would you

guys allow for them to set the rate? If you can understand me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to provide an adequate response by myself, but that question seems to contain many details that I don't know, such as the question about banks, as many people use banking institutions to finance their home or to purchase a house.

Anyway, at the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we would have to be aware of quite a (interpretation ends) few things. (interpretation) I would ask that Ms. Kimball be allowed to provide the details the member asked about. Mr. Chairman, with your approval, I would like Ms. Kimball to provide those details. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any new leases that we enter into, we do have a standard template, so we try to ensure we have standard terms and conditions. We do review the amounts being proposed for the lease for reasonableness, as we have to make sure that it is within our budget limit. If there's anything excessive or out of the norm, then we wouldn't go into that lease. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one more and I'm going back to the homeless shelters. I guess you won't have any units that are owned by

NHC that can be turned into a homeless shelter, at least one or two in our community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This issue surrounding (interpretation ends) homelessness, (interpretation) as per my earlier response, involves other departments, for example, the Department of Family Services or even the Department of Health.

Additionally, due to the importance of this issue, our department can't deal with this issue alone. As an example, we would have to involve the local LHO or even to work with the local hamlets and collaborate with all of these parties in order to deal with this issue.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$30,072,000. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, in the minister's opening comments, he stated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation "has successfully tendered all 213 units planned under the additional \$100 million in the economic action plan funding..."

I know there has been a history in Nunavut, not only in my community but in a lot of communities, and not only with the housing corporation but with other contractors, where they have a way

of saving money by avoiding staying in hotels.

I'm just wondering if the minister can update us on what safeguards are entered into these new contracts to ensure that contractors utilize the use of local hotels. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Some parts have been explained in detail earlier. Nonetheless, with respect to the construction contractors who are awarded these contracts, the details are laid out in the contract agreement, such as the requirement to utilize local hotels for accommodations or other (interpretation ends) local accommodations. (interpretation) These requirements are listed in these agreements. Although I am only using this one example here, any requirements that apply to the local community are spelled out in these contracts. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since it's stated in the contract that they have to utilize local hotels during the life of the contract, how does the Nunavut Housing Corporation monitor if the contractor is using the hotels or not throughout the life of the contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In some part, we use the contractors' progress payments receivable from NHC. That's how we keep track, through the progress payments, because each contract has difference terms and using those details, we are able to monitor them. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's observed during the life of the contract that a contractor is not using the hotels, what penalties are in place that could be applied towards the contractor? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If we look at the figures, once that occurs, then we have to look at the contractor's breach of contract. I'll ask Ms. Kimball to talk about the details. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a specific bonus and penalty clause within all GN contracts. It's under the General Terms and Conditions, GC55. It's a complex formula. Basically, there is a formula approach based on the commitments made at the time of tendering. Each contractor would submit something called the B2 Schedule where they estimate the amount of local and Inuit

labour and Nunavut labour. That's considered as part of the bid evaluation.

Upon completion of the contract, we compare their actuals to what they had committed to do, and then the bonus and penalty is calculated and assessed accordingly. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Kimball for that explanation. At the end of the contract, the contractor can be penalized for not using local hotels. Again, at the end of the contract, the housing corporation imposes penalties, so they save a few dollars on the contracts, but our local hotels are still out X number of dollars because they did not utilize the hotels. Is there anything in place in the contract where local hotels can put liens on the contracts so that they can apply for lost profits towards the contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't have such policy that the member is questioning. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the end of the day, our local Co-Ops or local hotels end up losing a lot of dollars because a lot of contractors do not utilize hotels in our communities.

The last thing I will say is I wonder if the Nunavut Housing Corporation...

They already stated that all the contracts have been awarded. I wonder if they can issue a letter of directive to the contractors advising them that they are to utilize hotels from the very beginning just so that the local hotels have the opportunity to make money while they can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In regard to utilizing a hotel for accommodation, everything is clearly spelled out. If a contract is awarded, everything is spelled out in the contract that they are to utilize the local hotel for accommodation. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the contractor decides not to use the local hotel, you guys at the housing corporation are probably not going to find out until the end of the contract. All I am asking is some kind of assurance that contractors will utilize hotels, if space is available in our communities, at the beginning of any contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can have face-to-face meetings with the contractor and we can resolve this issue. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are

on Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$30,072,000. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Minister and your officials. I just need clarification in regard to some of the questions that may not have been answered. You state that the contractors are to utilize the local hotels for accommodation, but all Nunavummiut know all the contractors have their own units. They purchase a unit and not utilize the local hotel. Each and every one of us is aware of this issue.

There are other issues as well. In our community, the small contractors have no opportunity at all. The huge contractors are being contracted out and the smaller contractors in the smaller communities are not being utilized at all. The Premier read the mission statement of the current government, that the communities need opportunity to meet economic development. It seems like we are not utilizing the smaller companies in the local communities for contractors because your department awards the contracts to large companies.

If there is going to be penalties imposed on me, how much percent of the contract would you penalize me for? (interpretation ends) So what if I pay \$30,000 in penalties? (interpretation) I believe that they don't mind paying the \$30,000 in penalties. How did you come up with that figure? I would like you to elaborate on that so that I could have a clearer understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will respond to some parts of the question, but I'll ask Ms. Kimball to respond to a part of the question.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to state, whether it be a hotel or a local business, we keep reminding the contractors to utilize the local contractors when awarded a contract. With respect to large contracts involving any (interpretation ends) ship, supply, and erect (interpretation) contracts, if a small local contractor is unable to bid on the contract, then the local contractor is identified as being eligible for subcontractor status. There are requirements within the large contracts to utilize these local subcontractors in the community, to work with them.

Further, the contractor is required to also conduct training for any (interpretation ends) trades apprentices (interpretation) in the community where apprentices have been identified to the contractor upon notification that that requirement applies. It is obvious that this may be part of the reason for these difficulties.

With respect to local accommodations, and here I will use an example of difficulties with local hotels, some hotels are booked for months at a time or even for the entire winter, especially in smaller communities with only one hotel. Some communities have more than one hotel and this probably leads to some local hotels not being utilized or only used sparingly. That is what I wanted to clarify here.

However, the smaller contractors at the local level have to be subcontracted and that requirement is clearly identified in the contracts. That is one requirement for local subcontractors, whether it is a local company or hotel that is to be subcontracted, as well as training any local apprentices upon notification.

With respect to a part of your question, I wanted Ms. Kimball to explain the contract penalties and how that process is followed if a contractor is found not to be adhering to these requirements. I would like Ms. Kimball to respond to (interpretation ends) that part. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for responding about local contractors, to be precise, local businesses that can be involved in these contracts. It is unfortunate that local contractors are only offered tidbits or tiny portions of the contracts through this process as a government.

In other words, we are only giving them crumbs from these contracts that they are able to bid on through this contracting process and this is regrettable for our small businesses, although this government stated that we want to empower our communities and increase local capacity for economic development.

With respect to the letter of instruction you referred to, where it identifies the requirements in writing, if that requirement isn't followed, what amount...? Let me use an example

where, if I was the contractor and I didn't follow the written requirements, such as staying at a local hotel although there was room, if I didn't stay at the hotel and the department finds out that I didn't use the local accommodations, how much of a penalty would I incur? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Now I understand his question about how penalties can be assessed, but I don't know whether it is set at a percentage of the contract or how these penalties are assessed or if the Nunavut Housing Corporation has these written down for contracts. I would ask that Ms. Kimball elaborate with more detail. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned, there's a detailed formula to calculate the penalty that compares their original bid commitment of what they would spend on different aspects of the contract, which would include things like the accommodations. We work with that formula to assess the penalty and bonus. I can't speak to a specific amount because it's a quite complex formula taking in a bunch of different things. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, perhaps what I am trying to ask about is with this percentage penalty. I am of the mind and

perhaps I am mistaken in my assumption, but I personally believe that these penalties are easily sloughed off by these companies and they aren't even fearful of the penalty.

Some contractors may also be building these punitive amounts into their contract bid. At least that is my opinion on this issue. They already know they will incur the penalties, so they include that percentage, as the amounts are not enough to cause hardship for them.

As I stated earlier, if I know I am making a \$500,000 profit from the contract and know that I will be incurring a \$30,000 penalty, then that is absolutely meaningless in terms of scaring off the contractor. I wouldn't even think twice about paying that penalty.

Let me ask this question then: with this percentage penalty that applies for not adhering to the requirements, do you seriously think the amount terrifies any of these companies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much. You just asked us if we think this penalty is sufficient. If I were to answer, it would just be an opinion, so I can't respond to his question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you. For companies that break these requirements and have to pay a

percentage, as per your response that penalties are imposed using a percentage rate, is this percentage high enough to deter these companies? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Again, I won't presume to speak for these contractors as that isn't my role here. Is it deterrence? (interpretation ends) I don't know. (interpretation) I can't answer that question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you award a contract, as an example, a yearlong contract has been awarded, within this yearlong contract, what is the limit of the penalties assessed to the company for breaching their contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If I understood your question correctly, I will refer the question to Ms. Kimball so that you can receive your response in detail. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The formula actually works as a percentage of labour and the maximum penalty is 25 percent of labour. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Let's say that I would incur up to 25 percent of my contract for breaching the labour requirement of the contract. If the hotel had space for my workers, but I didn't bother to utilize the hotel, what percentage would I have to pay for breaching that requirement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) With respect to that level of detail, perhaps Ms. Kimball can elaborate on the penalties that would be assessed, if any. Since it is different and she already provided the labour component penalties, perhaps she can identify the different requirements as she would know them. Perhaps it would be easier if she replied to that question if it exists, but these requirements are generally contained in the (interpretation ends) contract agreement. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are numerous components that are bundled together. Not just accommodation, but there is accommodations, travel, material, and other items that are actually lumped together, and there is a formula to calculate the penalty. Off the top of my head, I cannot recall what the maximum penalty is of that component. I know the main penalty is 25 percent of labour.

We do endeavour to make sure we encourage the contractors to follow what they set out in the tender B2 schedules.



We do hold the face-to-face pre-construction meeting at the outset of the contract prior to anything occurring, hold a detailed review of their plans and how they plan to meet the commitments in their tender documents, and then we proceed with monitoring to that at each payment progress draw. As well, we utilize our LHO partners as eyes and ears on the ground to observe what's going on, on the construction site and provide us feedback if there are issues.

If there is non-compliance with commitments made in the contract, we do contact the contractor and try to work with them to resolve a lack of compliance. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the labour component that entails a 25 percent penalty upon breaching this requirement, which employees are we talking about here? Are we talking about Inuit workers or all the workers under the contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): For the labour component, we are talking about the (interpretation ends) total (interpretation) number of workers that would be looked at, in other words, the total personnel. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Furthermore, when a

contract is awarded, you stated that there is a pre-construction meeting outlining the requirements and agreement is reached. After this meeting, you stated that inspections start. Now, is the LHO staff included in these inspections? I assume so, but are inspectors available in all the communities who have taken the proper training to inspect these projects? Are there qualified inspectors in all of the communities and is that how you conduct your inspections with the LHO? Further, how many times do they conduct inspections? Every two weeks? When? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much. When this process has been undertaken, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has inspectors in the (interpretation ends) districts, (interpretation) such as the districts for the Kivalliq, the Baffin, or the Kitikmeot districts wherever the project is managed. The inspectors then visit the sites as part of the inspection process as well as the LHO staff that are able to conduct these inspections to assess the contractor's construction project. If it is required, the Nunavut Housing Corporation tasks one of their inspectors to conduct the inspections. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am actually getting more confused with each response when I should be starting to understand the process. I wonder how to word this.

With respect to the LHO staff that form part of the inspections, do they have qualified staff to conduct inspections and thusly, performing inspections?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Let me respond with a question of my own. Please elaborate on exactly what type of inspection you are referring to. What exactly do you want answered with that question? (interpretation ends)  
Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, the minister and his officials stated earlier that once a contract is awarded and construction starts, inspections are done on these construction projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, earlier, Ms. Kimball stated that in these cases, it would be better to use an example and perhaps it is better to have our officials to conduct the investigation or perhaps the LHO staff can do the inspections. Yes, we work together to complete these investigations to assess the situations.

However, Mr. Enook seems to be referring to qualified inspectors in his question and whether any exist in these local housing associations and if we are utilizing them as they are qualified to do. I will refer this question to Ms. Kimball

to respond in detail. (interpretation ends)  
Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We utilize different staff for different forms of inspections. For instance, LHO staff would be used. They would know what's going on locally, so they would be able to provide feedback in terms of using the local accommodations. They can also provide feedback as to whether or not there are beneficiaries working on site and whether or not they are in compliance with the amount of local labour.

In terms of formal inspections, obviously things like electrical inspections, plumbing inspections, we make sure that our appropriately qualified staff are flown out to view those inspections. We also make sure, as part of every progress draw, that we have NHC staff observe the site and verify that the work being claimed as complete is actually complete as part of the payment process. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the local hotel accommodation requirement, let's not play around with that type of lip service. As per my comment earlier, the rules that were made and that we stated would be followed as contract requirements, the penalties aren't severe enough to deter contractors from breaching them.

The amount is laughable due to the limit of the penalty. If I were a very large

contractor with many contracts, my earlier statement about the \$30,000 penalty being assessed wouldn't be enough to deter me since it wouldn't hurt in the slightest, as I would be making a \$500,000 profit from this government. It is as if I just threw that from my pocket cash since it is basically small change to these types of large companies. I believe that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has to seriously review these penalties.

Another matter that is disconcerting to me is that every community faces housing shortages and there are very few private homes for sale. Whenever a private home is put on the market, sometimes the contractors just snap up the units. This is in the face of local people who may be trying to purchase the same unit because the contractor has the deep pockets to offer the highest price and local people can't compete and give up trying. It compounds the problems communities' face since that house is out of the market and is unavailable, leading to further housing shortages.

I wonder how best to try to make this a more tangible penalty. I wonder how we can review all of these issues in light of the housing shortages we face. We want our residents to have private homes, but when a house is put on the market, local people can't compete with the contractors who buy the house. At least that is the situation we face in the smaller communities. That is the reality we face. I think we have to seriously reconsider our approach in this area. This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I take that as a comment.

Moving on with my list, we are on Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Total Capital Expenditures. \$30,072,000. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have, I think, just one question. Earlier this year, one of the responses brought up the topic of the blueprint for action. Earlier this year, I had asked the minister a question regarding the continuum of care and the continuum of affordability.

The response Ms. Kimball provided is that there was a strategy to identify the goals and objectives and they were looking at meeting with different stakeholders to develop this blueprint for action. It specifically mentions Community and Government Services, the City of Iqaluit, and the Department of Finance.

If the Chairman will allow me, I'll make it kind of a two-phased question, which led me into the topic of the 10-year Inuit Housing Action Plan that was developed in coordination with NTI and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Would the minister be able to update me on those two documents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. When we discussed that matter earlier, we were talking about the (interpretation ends) blueprint for the action plan on housing (interpretation) that allows us to

see the bigger picture in order to plan for meeting our housing shortages. This will be developed through an RFP process and any companies wishing to bid may do so. This includes the (interpretation ends) scope of work (interpretation) for the contractor. This will start from that point onwards.

With respect to the other part of his question about NTI and the need to include them to meet our housing shortages, it is outside of my mandate and I can't answer that point. If Ms. Kimball wants to respond to that question, I would like her to do so. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the blueprint for action, it's really about interdepartmental collaboration within the GN. We are in the process of finalizing a request for proposals to seek a facilitator that would help us with the consultation that we want to have in the winter, spring, and summer. The intention is then to compile a formal report with a path forward some time in the winter of 2015-16. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I just want to remind members that we are dealing with proposed capital budgets for 2015-16. Please keep your focus and questions on the proposed budget. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your indulgence, I will continue on this line, as this directly affects the strategy on the capital budget.

The 10-year Inuit Housing Action Plan that was developed has lapsed. When I asked the minister questions on it earlier this year, he quoted, to quote, "To date, we have not had any new talks with NTI." This was back in March, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if any talks have been initiated now to assist in the development of this Inuit housing action plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to member's question, yes, there is a plan being developed with NTI to meet with them to discuss the next 10-year plan for resolving our housing needs. (interpretation ends) That's the plan, is to meet. There's planning in discussion to meet with NTI on that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$30,072,000. L-3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Back to page L-2. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$30,072,000.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are you agreed that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Do you have any closing comments? Mr. Kuksuk.

**Hon. George Kuksuk** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. No, I don't have too much to comment on further. My chair is getting quite warm and I would prefer to stand up at this point.

I just want to thank all the committee members for their questions as well as the suggestions to improve the work of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We have to work in partnership with other departments and our partners, and that is the only way to move forward. I just thank everyone here. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

(interpretation ends) Thank you.

(interpretation) We will take a five-minute break (interpretation ends) before moving on to the next department, Community and Government Services, after our break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 18:01 and resumed at 18:13*

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2015-2016 – Community and  
Government Services –  
Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask Minister Sammurtok: do

you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Sammurtok, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Roy Green, Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services, and to my left is Bu Lam, Director of Community Infrastructure.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please proceed with your opening comments, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to have this opportunity today to update the Committee of the Whole on the 2016-2020 five-year capital plan and, in particular, the 2015-16 Capital Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

The Department of Community and Government Services has a central role to play in the delivery of capital projects for the government. We provide support to all departments during the initial stages of project planning, design

development, technical review, construction, and commissioning.

In addition to assisting government departments, CGS is also responsible for assisting all Nunavut communities in the long-term planning and delivery of capital projects. These efforts have forged strong collaborations with our communities and these relationships continue to strengthen.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed capital budget for the Department of Community and Government Services for 2015-16 is \$27,855,000. This requested allocation will primarily be for ongoing initiatives and reflects our department's responsibility to support both GN and municipal programs.

Our proposed capital budget for the upcoming year includes:

- \$7,390,000 for upgrades to fuel storage facilities in four communities and a new point-of-sale payment system to better track fuel inventory across the territory;
- \$5 million for minor capital projects which will primarily be used to assist communities with minor infrastructure upgrades and repairs and for lifecycle renewal of GN owned assets;
- \$3,400,000 as a block funding contribution to the City of Iqaluit to assist in upgrades to core municipal infrastructure;
- \$2 million for upgrades to communication technology infrastructure, funding that will support ongoing improvements to

telecommunications for all GN departments and municipalities;

- \$10,065,000 for municipal infrastructure projects in six communities across the three regions.

Mr. Chairman, the infrastructure needs across the territory are simply too vast to adequately address in the short term with the limited capital funding available. Regrettably, this is the infrastructure reality facing our territory. It is, therefore, paramount that scarce capital funding is administered as effectively as possible to best address the core needs of our communities.

To ensure our approach in identifying priority projects is prudent, officials in my department work very closely with municipalities, the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee, and other branches of government to rank and prioritize infrastructure projects. This approach allows us to address the most urgent and critical projects in the short term to support our government and our communities.

To assist in advancing municipal infrastructure priorities, the department utilizes capital funds from federal infrastructure programs. Most recently, the Government of Nunavut signed the Canada-Nunavut Federal Gas Tax Agreement in February 2014, which will bring a total of \$143 million over a 10-year period to address water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure upgrades in our communities.

Additionally, officials within my department continue to work with

Canada to negotiate the terms and conditions under the New Building Canada Fund, which will provide \$256 million of federal funding from 2014 to 2024.

Both funding agreements provide much needed infrastructure investments to the territory that will help establish a foundation of infrastructure that will be resilient to the changing climate of the north and produce strong and prosperous communities.

Building and planning for sustainable infrastructure in Nunavut requires cooperation between all three levels of government: federal, territorial, and municipal. The department is committed to working with communities to identify priorities through the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan website, [www.buildingnunavut.com](http://www.buildingnunavut.com). It is from these community-driven plans that CGS is able to assess the infrastructure needs and priorities across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the development of sustainability plans is an important tool for Nunavut communities. These plans need to be easy to use, effective, durable, and adaptable. Sustainability planning will prepare our communities to support growth and development and safeguard our environment and our culture. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I look forward to your questions. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

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

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Department of Community and Government Services' proposed 2015-16 capital estimates. Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year is [\$27,855,000]. The department's capital budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year was \$32,688,000.

Mr. Chairman, the department's operations have a significant impact on the success of the Government of Nunavut's overall capital planning process. On June 12, 2014, the Minister of Finance appeared before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2014-2015*. In his opening comments, the minister indicated that approximately 125 capital projects and \$149,503,000 in funding were being carried over from 2014-15 to 2015-16. Members continue to have concerns regarding the volume of capital carryovers.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2014-15 capital budget included \$2 million to complete a number of preplanning studies for various departments. However, the department's current five-year capital plan indicates that funding for new preplanning studies will resume in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

During the minister's recent appearance, members were informed that the

department is currently working to complete a backlog of capital projects and preplanning studies. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on the progress of these projects.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's recent appearance, he indicated that his department's officials "continue to work with the Government of Canada to negotiate the terms and conditions under the New Building Canada Fund which will provide \$256 million of federal funding from 2014 to 2024." Members look forward to receiving updates on the status of the Building Canada Fund.

Mr. Chairman, the department previously indicated that it was "working closely with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators and municipalities to establish daily procedures to assist communities in complying with their water licence requirements. A water monitoring working group has been established to ensure water samples are being taken regularly and water logs are being filed daily." Members continue to urge stakeholders to work together to ensure municipalities are in compliance with their water licences and look forward to receiving ongoing updates on this issue.

On June 1 of 2012, the department issued a request for proposals for a project to locate alternate sources of drinking water for each Nunavut hamlet. During the minister's recent appearance, he indicated that this contract was awarded and a report has been drafted. Members encourage the minister to table a copy of the final report from this initiative in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, members note that the department's current five-year capital plan includes a number of projects related to recreational infrastructure in the communities. The department's proposed 2015-16 capital budget includes \$1.8 million in funding for a second phase of upgrades to Coral Harbour's arena.

Members also note that \$26.3 million is planned to be spent in future years to construct a new arena in Rankin Inlet. Members recognize that \$1.7 million in capital funding has already been allocated to the planning and design of this project. In anticipation of future capital appropriations, members emphasize the importance of providing comprehensive and detailed information on projects that require significant amounts of funding and encourage the department to ensure that it is prepared to substantiate its anticipated budget for this project.

Mr. Chairman, members note that the department's proposed 2015-16 capital estimates include \$5 million in small capital funding to complete various projects throughout the territory. Information provided by the department indicates that \$2,867,000 would be allocated to block funding which will be distributed in the territory's three regions. The department has indicated that "the amounts for this project have remained the same since 1999-2000 when it was inherited by the GNWT. A new policy is in the works to upgrade the program." During the minister's recent appearance, members were informed that a new policy on block funding may be completed as soon as November of this year. Members encourage the



minister to table this new block funding policy once it is completed.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2015-16 capital estimates also include \$1.5 million for a new project to integrate an electronic point-of-sale payment system to the government's current fuel distribution system. Information provided to members indicates that this system will allow the Petroleum Products Division to redefine the scope of its fuel delivery service agreements and "will streamline contractor operations and therefore result in more competitive commission rates." The standing committee encourages the department to keep members updated on any significant changes to the government's current process for awarding fuel delivery service contracts.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2015-16 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Do members have any general comments? I have no names on my list for general comments. Before we proceed, I would like to remind my colleagues that we are reviewing the capital estimates for 2015-16. (interpretation ends) Please keep your focus and questions on the proposed budget.

I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page J-3. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital

Planning. Total Capital Expenditures. \$20,465,000. Mapsalak, any questions? Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question, if I don't have to do a supplementary question later. In your opening remarks, you were talking about the Building Canada Fund of \$256 million that you would get from the federal government for 2014. Where are we with that money now? Can you answer that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The new Building Canada program (interpretation) is what you're asking about. We're still working on the agreement with the federal government in regard to that money. (interpretation ends) We're still negotiating with Canada regarding the New Building Canada Fund at this point. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for replying. You just stated that you're still working on the agreement. What is the hold-up? Why haven't you reached an agreement yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I would like to respond to this in English.

This is a little bit different from the initial agreement. (interpretation ends) Unlike previous Building Canada programs, there will not be a contribution agreement signed by Canada and the GN. Once Infrastructure Canada approves a list of projects that we would submit to them, an administration agreement will be signed by both governments. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. We are still under questions for page J-3. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question. I may ask other questions later on other matters.

When can we expect this to be completed? Do you think you will be able to reach an agreement this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have the agreement with the Canadian government before the end of the fiscal year, which is March 31. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning. J-3. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Just looking at your opening comments, you talk about identifying priority projects and that you work closely with municipalities and that. You were saying that "This approach allows us to address the most urgent and critical projects..." Can you tell us the department's idea of what would be a critical project? Can you give us an idea of what that might be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess an example I can use at this point is solid waste sites would be a critical project. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister elaborate on what that means? Is it flowing everywhere? For example, in Iqaluit, they don't have a water licence because they're not meeting the requirements of it. Would that constitute a critical need right there since we're having wastewater flowing into our sea? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The short answer would be yes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. I think our city has been without a water licence for quite a while. If you would consider it critical, I'm wondering why it's taking so many years to address. I know the municipality also has their responsibilities, but I'm just wondering why the two haven't come together to address this need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток:** Thank you for that. The City of Iqaluit is not the only community that we're working with. With respect to water licences, there are other communities that we are working with as well. However, I would be very pleased to get together with the city to discuss this further with them and assist them in making sure that they acquire their water licence. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for your response. Just to go on, in your opening comments, you talk about the Canada-Nunavut Federal Gas Tax Agreement for a total of \$143 million over 10 years. You also talk about a \$256 million New Building Canada Fund. Last spring, I think the federal government announced \$400 million or a little over \$400 million for capital infrastructure over 10 years. Is that \$400 million part of this or is it separate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the total arrived at by adding the two, the \$256 million plus the \$143 million. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming or maybe it's not fair to assume, but I'm thinking that you will sit down with the communities to decide who is going to get what. What are the long-term plans to spend this money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are having discussions within the GN, also along with the municipalities, as to what priorities they may have and whatever priorities they may have identified. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you sit down with the community and you work with them to identify priorities, how do you address conflicting ideas in what the priority for the community should be? For example, a community might want a new arena, but perhaps, you have done an assessment and you know that what that community really needs is solid waste infrastructure. How do you deal with that conflict? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When we're working with the communities, they will identify their priorities through the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan using the website I mentioned earlier, [www.buildingnunavut.com](http://www.buildingnunavut.com). Those priorities are given to our Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee that then prioritizes the request from the communities. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How do you address the fact if a community disagrees with what, at the end of the day, you have come up with as their priority, if they feel that they have been misrepresented? How do you approach that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have a sustainability coordinator who works with the municipalities to discuss their priorities and sustainability planning.

I am very bad at acronyms here; however, I'll use this one, NCIAC, the infrastructure advisory committee. This committee is made up of representatives from each of the regions in Nunavut, along with our department. They are the ones who actually set the priorities at the end.

I suppose, if a community is not happy with a decision made by this committee,

they can talk to this committee through our sustainability coordinator. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you're discussing priorities with communities, how do you go about working with the community to ensure that the basic needs are being met versus maybe something like an arena? How do you work that with the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this case, if it's okay with you, I would like to defer that question to my deputy minister.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The NCIAC committee that the minister previously referred to; there is a ranking criteria approach that we use that is based upon the GN's ranking criteria model.

Basically, the projects are ranked in terms of health and safety. What I mean by health and safety is if there are issues in terms of wastewater treatment that could be harmful to the environment, if there are regulatory issues, those would certainly be dealt with under health and safety. They would be the priority within the government.

The other ones would also be government services, where you have facilities that are nearing their capacity

and they need to be addressed in order to be able to deliver the programs and services. One example could be the schools where they're nearing capacity. We need to be able to address that. That one certainly would be the second ranking criteria.

The other one that we use is the sustainability and that's more reflected to the federal government infrastructure programs or their cost-sharing programs where there are unique benefits within the GN.

As part of this committee ranking, they do communicate back to the communities to indicate to them that the project will be based on health and safety and environmental risk, and then we would encourage them to bring forward their projects based on what they think is the greatest and critical need, especially for the core program needs in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't expecting to be called up so soon. I think I've got most of my ducks in a row as it is.

I'm going to touch upon something that Ms. Angnakak has mentioned with regard to the \$143 million from the Canada-Nunavut Gas Tax Fund for water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure.

I'm looking at this year's capital budget. I'm only seeing two water treatment plant infrastructure, one in Kugluktuk and one in Cambridge Bay, totalling less

than \$2.8 million, yet when I'm looking at the \$143 million over 10 years, I guess my initial question is: how is that \$143 million allocated? How is it broken down? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm not sure if this is the answer the member is looking for. However, the Gas Tax Fund is a federal fund and what we're talking about at this moment is... I'm sorry. What is identified in our capital plan is covered under our GN funds. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I understood the response. I understand that this is federal monies that are coming to the Government of Nunavut for water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure. I see two water treatment systems, which are water infrastructure, totalling less than \$2.8 million. Maybe the minister could just clarify: are those federal dollars not in this budget? Are there projects going to be done out of those federal dollars that are not included in the GN budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response. I understand that the budget from the GN allocation towards the capital planning process for water and waste treatment is \$2.8 million. Could I maybe get a response? How much is going to be spent overall out of that federal tax agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get one of my technical people to respond to that if I may.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Which official would you like to respond? Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** I'm sorry. My deputy minister.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the member's question, the gas tax is 100 percent funded by the federal government, so it wouldn't show up in the calculations as a contribution from the Nunavut legislature.

In Appendix 4 of the capital estimates handbook, there is a list of projects that are being funded under the gas tax program. For this fiscal year, I think we have approved approximately seven projects out of the gas tax for 2014-15 and that was mainly to address some of

the budget shortfalls that were approved in the previous gas tax program.

The allocation of the funding of the gas tax is using the same ranking criteria that I mentioned before and the allocation is decided by using the community sustainability plans, using their online website, in coordination with the Nunavut infrastructure advisory committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** So would the same conditions apply to the Building Canada dollars in the \$256 million announcement? From what I understand, some of that is cost shared, if it's similar to the last structured agreement. How are those dollars reported? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I would like my deputy minister to continue responding to that.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the New Building Canada Fund, that is a cost-shared arrangement between the federal government and the Nunavut government. The cost sharing is 75-25 percent. Once we submit a list of applications to Infrastructure Canada for consideration once we finalize the new program, basically, we will be including the 25 percent of the requirements from the GN in the capital estimates.

You will notice that what we will be doing is including the 75 percent contribution from Canada in the appendices so that you have a general idea of the total contribution cost by the GN and the federal government for a specific project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy for that response. Are there going to be any funds flowing from the Building Canada Fund in the fiscal year that's being applied for the 2015 capital budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It will depend on the timeline if Canada approves the agreement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that back in March during the appropriation for capital, at that time, I had asked a similar question and one of the responses I got was that both provincial and territorial governments are lobbying to get an understanding from the federal government on how that funding will be allocated over an annual basis.

Back then, they didn't know and they also didn't know the federal approval

process. From what I understood from the deputy's last response, they still don't know. That's quite a substantial amount of time in between the announcement of funding and still negotiating the parameters of how to access that funding. Where's the roadblock? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask my deputy to respond to that.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are to the point now that between our negotiations with Infrastructure Canada and the GN that we have pretty much ironed out the parameters around the New Building Canada Fund.

Basically, our next step now is to work with the municipalities and the Government of Nunavut to determine which projects we would be submitting under this request. Like the gas tax, there is no annual allocation. It's based on how many... It's kind of a bundling of projects. If we felt that we could do approximately five to ten projects, let's say, over a five-year span, we would bundle those up and they would approve the total bundling.

It could take up to 16 to 18 months after we submitted an application before we get the final approval from the federal government. That's why we can't really give you a firm timeline of when we will have the approval from Infrastructure Canada on our list of projects that we

would be submitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to that same appropriation from last year's budget, in one of the questions that I asked, I had specifically said that "The key now is to ensure that funding flows" to the territories in a timely. . . . Sorry. It was a quote from the federal government. "The key now is to ensure that funding flows to our provinces and territories in a timely, efficient and flexible manner to support the needs of our citizens."

Mr. Chairman, as we all know, Nunavut's capital budget, in comparison to most other jurisdictions, is quite small, yet it's not as flexible because of the limitations that our budgetary requirements have on the limited funds that we have. If there is any type of a delay in accessing these funds, it could create quite a challenge for this government to put forward a number of projects all at once.

Where is our 25 percent going to come from? Maybe if the minister could give me a little bit of insight into how that planning process will work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurток.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When Canada indicated that they were not going to sign the agreement immediately, I raised

a concern with Canada with respect to program suitability for Nunavut.

Infrastructure Canada has been receptive to the concerns raised by our government. They're now allowing the GN to bundle projects for submission to streamline the approvals and payment process and to allow for cash advance on larger projects. However, I would like to ask my deputy minister to elaborate on that a bit more. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the frustration that the GN has experienced in terms of trying to finalize the agreement under the New Building Canada Fund to fit within our own fiscal framework has been a challenge for us to work with Infrastructure Canada to change some of the parameters to allow us to be able to fund those within our fiscal framework.

We have done a lot of our work over the last six months and we're pretty much agreed that Nunavut is different. It's claim-based driven. It can have an impact on the debt wall limit. We need to make sure that if there is ability to be able to give us cash advances, if the claims base affected our ability to fund those projects because it could have an impact on the debt, we have agreed to all those parameters. They have agreed to us to bundle projects, which is similar to previous annual capital plans.

Basically, we're to a point now that we are looking at, as the GN, bringing forward a list of projects that we would consider over the next 10 years. Really, we will be having a deputy ministers' committee meeting some time within the



next four weeks whereby departments and the municipalities will submit a list of projects that we think that we can finance over the 10-year agreement.

The only difference with this one is just that we don't have an annual allocation like we had before. Before, we knew we were getting \$25 million a year and we knew that 25 percent of that was cost shared by the government. Right now, we have submitted a list of projects and they can range anywhere from \$25 million to \$100 million in a particular bundle. Basically, once they're approved, we will have some idea of how we can cash flow that in to meet the GN's fiscal framework.

At this point in time, we're just getting a list of projects that we would try rank and prioritize within the government and the municipalities to best meet the criteria under these new programs as we move forward. We have actually ironed out the details with Infrastructure Canada. Basically now our next job is to identify a list of projects that we want to fund out of this program. From our discussion with Infrastructure Canada, and then this is where it's problematic for us as well, they are saying that it could take from 6 to 18 months by the time that we submit this list to Infrastructure Canada to get final approval.

We will continue to work with our counterparts in Ottawa to try to reduce the timeline that's required to get the federal approval. Basically, once we have submitted the application, we can only continue to encourage the federal government to expedite the process, but at the end of the day, it rests with the

minister responsible for Infrastructure Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** I do have another question of what the deputy minister just brought up with regard to some of the new parameters.

Before I do so, I would like to ask a question regarding the term "cash advance." Would those monies come off of next year's federal transfer or is this specifically just advancing funds from the Building Canada Fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be advancing funds from the Building Canada Fund. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Green had mentioned some of the new parameters of the Building Canada Fund. From some recent news coverage and announcements by some of the Inuit organizations, they now have access to federal programs as well, which I would assume too include some of these Building Canada programs across the country.

Has there been any talk or negotiation with any of the Inuit organizations on establishing some of these prioritized projects and maybe working in coordination and pooling resources and

monies to access larger portions of this fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) No, there haven't been any discussions as of yet at this time. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Are you anticipating having discussions of that nature in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we are anticipating discussions. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would urge for those discussions to occur very soon to maximize the efficiency of this program while it's in place.

Mr. Chairman, the minister kind of touched on how the priority infrastructure funding is going to be done, yet there is an approvals process at the federal level. How does the discussion go with the Building Canada Fund people, we will say the federal counterparts? If they are looking at approving or denying projects, how is our priority infrastructure list established? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For further clarity, I'm going to ask Mr. Lam to respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Lam.

**Mr. Lam:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The federal process for approval of projects is actually two-tier. The first tier is to screen against eligibility to ensure that the projects that are being brought forward by each province or territory meets the eligibility criteria of the program. After that initial screening process, the second tier of the screening process requires a more in-depth look at the scope of the work to ensure that the estimates that are provided for that work make sense and are accurate for the type of work that's going to be undertaken. At that time, when there's a level of comfort that's achieved by Infrastructure Canada, they will ultimately grant the approval.

As was alluded to earlier, the process could take anywhere between 6 and 18 months. For the projects that are incredibly complex and where there's less concrete information that's available, those will take a little bit longer to screen. For projects that come in and are more defined, those ones should be streamlined through the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the witness for that response. I'm just going to jump back a little bit to the Canada-Nunavut Gas Tax Fund with water, wastewater, and solid waste sites. The minister had mentioned earlier that solid waste sites are considered a critical need in this territory. Is there any solid waste infrastructure going in, in this next upcoming fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be submitting a list of municipal solid waste projects for consideration in the New Building Canada Fund once the program has been agreed to by the GN and Canada. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering why the minister wouldn't be putting those applications in under the Canada-Nunavut Gas Tax Fund, which is specific to water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure, and not utilizing up Building Canada funds in another funding model. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's insufficient funding under the gas tax program to meet all of the municipal solid waste requirements throughout Nunavut. However, if I may, I'll ask Mr. Lam to elaborate on that comment. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lam.

**Mr. Lam:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister alluded to, the gas tax contribution annually is approximately \$15 million a year. With the current requirements of infrastructure on core municipal services, such as water, wastewater, and solid waste in our communities, the funding that we receive from gas tax isn't sufficient to pace with upgrading those needs. As such, we have focused the Gas Tax Fund more on the water and wastewater infrastructure and, therefore, need to look at alternate funding sources to look after solid waste sites. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't take up much more time, but I'm curious on this one with my Curious George syndrome kicking in.

If solid waste infrastructure is such a critical need and we're anticipating putting some of that funding through the Building Canada Fund, what is the long-term plan for solid waste management across the territory?

If I understood correctly, I remember seeing some number a few years back that it's over \$200 million in need. Where are we going to get that money from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The draft Solid Waste Management Strategy has been

completed. The purpose of this strategy provides municipalities with guidelines to implement best practices for municipal solid waste programs to ensure that solid waste facilities are properly managed, including segregation of hazardous materials, bulky metals, and recycling.

The draft will be reviewed and discussed during the NAMA annual general meeting in Rankin Inlet during the week of November 3. We anticipate the completion by the end of the fiscal year 2014-15. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward and hopefully the minister will table that report when it's complete.

I just have one more question and actually, I had asked it in Oral Questions yesterday regarding the funding for the City of Iqaluit, the \$3.4 million. I'm actually getting into something that is in this year's budget, Mr. Chairman. They're reporting on it.

From what the minister had mentioned yesterday, it was just the audited financial statements from the city, yet it piqued my interest because I recall asking that question some time back.

From what I understood from the previous answer in the spring, there were some reporting requirements from the City of Iqaluit on how those funds were spent by the City of Iqaluit.

Could I get maybe a clarification from yesterday's response? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Hon. Tom Sammurtok:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask my deputy minister to elaborate on that.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the capital contribution agreement that has been included in the five-year plan for the City of Iqaluit, we do have a contribution agreement signed with the City of Iqaluit that they must provide us with updates on the funding that has been approved for the intended purpose that it was used for.

We do look for updates with the City of Iqaluit annually in terms of project updates. Also, in their financial statements, they must disclose the status of the spending of money on those particular projects and, at the same time, it gives us an update on whether they're meeting the terms and conditions of the agreement.

We also meet quarterly with the City of Iqaluit as well to discuss their infrastructure needs and also talk about the contribution agreements and work with them to make sure that they provide us with the necessary disclosures to ensure that the funds are spent for the intended purposes. If there are any issues, we usually discuss them as well during those meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. We're on (interpretation

ends) Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning. Total Capital Expenditures. \$20,465,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): We will go to page J-5. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Petroleum Products Division. Total Capital Expenditures. \$7,390,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Back to page J-2. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$27,855,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Are you agreed that the Department of Community and Government Services is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Mr. Sammurток, closing comments.

**Hon. Tom Sammurток** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. I am battling a losing battle here with a cold, so I don't think I want to add any more comments at this point. Thank you.

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

(interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

(interpretation) Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Minister Ell, if you can proceed to the witness table, please, to do your opening comments.

(interpretation) Minister Ell, please make your opening comments.

### **Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2015-2016 – Health – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, my colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to take this opportunity today to present the 2015-16 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health.

I would like to introduce my officials from the department, Deputy Minister Colleen Stockley, Rosemary Keenainak, Assistant Deputy Minister, and Executive Director for Corporate Services Johan Glaudemans.

The department has a number of capital projects planned to replace and renovate our aging health facilities. Approximately 60 percent of the department's health centres are 20 years of age or older.

For 2015-16, the department is requesting \$17,150,000 for five capital projects. I will briefly provide details of each project.

In September 2013, the department began construction of the new community health centre in Taloyoak and it is expected to be completed by March 2015. The department is requesting \$50,000 in 2015-16 for the closeout phase of the project. The \$50,000 we are requesting is not new money but funding that has already been identified in the previous year's capital plan.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the design of the new Arctic Bay Health Centre is currently ongoing and the construction tender package is scheduled to be issued in March 2015. The department is requesting \$14 million in capital funding for the first phase of construction in 2015-16. In the coming fiscal years, the department will be requesting an additional \$16,360,000 in 2016-17 for the second phase of construction and \$50,000 in 2017-18 for the closeout phase of the project. The total remaining cost estimated to complete the project is \$30,410,000. The project is expected to be completed by March 2017.

A value management analysis of the health centre common design constructed in Repulse Bay and Taloyoak was undertaken by Health and CG&S to improve the design and find cost savings for future health centre replacements. As a result of the analysis, some changes have been made in Arctic Bay's new health centre that are expected to generate cost savings in the vicinity of \$2 million. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the department has been constructing new health centres that have been completed on time and within budget, and we are expecting this project to follow the same pattern.

The department is requesting \$1.1 million to convert the children's group home building in Rankin Inlet to a mental health transition house. This facility will provide case management and northern-based support systems for clients returning from mental health treatment or addiction treatment programs in southern centres. This one-year renovation project is scheduled to start and be completed in 2015-16.

(interpretation ends) In addition, the department is requesting a continuation of the annual funding amounts of \$1 million for small capital and \$1 million for minor capital projects. The small capital yearly allocation is for the purchase of the department's equipment, furniture, fixtures, and vehicles. The minor projects allocation is for minor renovations, repairs, and upgrades of the department's health facilities.

In closing, the department's proposed capital plan for 2015-16 is in line with the *Sivumut Abluqta* Mandate of this government. Specifically, the capital plan is focused on mental health and health care facilities, which are essential services to Nunavummiut. Maintaining facilities that meet the needs of the communities and residents is the department's priority.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I look forward to your support on these important projects and I welcome questions and comments from members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Please proceed, Mr. Joanasie.

**Mr. Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2015-16 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health.

The regular members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2015-16 is just over \$17 million which includes funding for three infrastructure projects and two blocks of funding for minor capital and small capital projects.

Members recognize that the focus of the Department of Health's capital planning for 2015-16 is on mental health and the completion of ongoing health centre infrastructure projects. Standing committee members were disappointed not to receive any further information of the department's future plans for projects as no future projects were identified in the department's 2016-2020 five-year capital plan. It is unclear how the department will prioritize which projects it intends to proceed with in coming years.

Mr. Chairman, while the standing committee recognizes that replacing and updating community health centres across all of Nunavut's communities is a long-term goal, members encourage the minister to work with her ministerial counterparts to address issues of overcrowding and poorly designated clinical space and to identify alternative office space within communities for all staff.

Mr. Chairman, two of the department's projects planned for 2015-16 are ongoing from previous years: the project

to replace the health centre in Arctic Bay and the completion of the replacement health centre in Taloyoak. During the minister's appearance before the committee to discuss her department's draft capital estimates for 2015-16, the minister made a number of commitments to provide additional detail on a number of important issue areas, such as the planning, design specifications, and cost estimates for the "Common Design" used for the health centre projects in Taloyoak, Repulse Bay, and Arctic Bay. Standing committee members look forward to reviewing this and other information at the earliest opportunity.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health's 2015-16 capital plan includes a project to renovate what was formerly a children's group home in Rankin Inlet into a mental health transition house. Members have expressed some concern regarding the type and level of services to be delivered at the newly renovated facility and encourage the minister to provide further clarification on the anticipated client base, service delivery, and expected outcomes.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is of the view that the department's capital planning process should address upcoming needs in such areas as elder care. Members recognize that there is a wide variation of needs with respect to providing care to elders, ranging from home care to respite care for families to long-term and palliative care. Members encourage the minister in her efforts to assess these needs across Nunavut, especially in communities with a steadily growing population of elders. Mr. Chairman, members look forward to supporting the minister in her work

towards developing a long-term infrastructure plan for providing care for our elders within Nunavut and alongside programs such as home care and assisted living facilities.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health's capital budget includes blocks of funding for small capital projects and for minor projects in its 2015-16 capital estimates. Members appreciated receiving detailed information on proposed expenditures under these projects for the current 2014-15 fiscal year. Members encourage the minister and her officials to consider additional initiatives to purchase specialized diagnostic equipment so that medical clients are not always required to travel far away from home to other jurisdictions in order to receive health services.

Mr. Chairman, it has been noted that small capital funding may include the purchase of vehicles for community health centres. While it is recognized that health centre vehicles are generally used for such activities as home care program delivery, mental health services, or the transportation of supplies, equipment, or lab samples, members continue to express concerns regarding the availability of local transportation available for certain individuals who receive health services.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2015-16 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Enook.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, 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 agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Angnakak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

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



**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*Orders of the Day* for October 30:

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

- Bill 6
- Bill 7
- Bill 8
- Bill 9

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) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 11 – 4(2), this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 30, at 10:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:39*

## **Appendix – October 29, 2014**



# **Reports of Standing and Special Committees**

**Standing Committee on  
Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

***Report on the Review of the  
2012-2013 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut***

**Second Session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
October 2014**

**George Hickes, MLA  
Chair**

**Alexander Sammurtok, MLA  
Co-Chair**

**Tony Akoak, MLA  
Pat Angnakak, MLA  
Joe Enook, MLA  
David Joanasie, MLA  
Steve Mapsalak, MLA  
Simeon Mikkungwak, MLA  
Allan Rumbolt, MLA  
Joe Savikataaq, MLA  
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The Languages Commissioner's duties and responsibilities are established by two pieces of Nunavut legislation: the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Nunavut's new *Official Languages Act* was passed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Assembly in 2008 and, with the exception of subsection 12(7)(c), came into force on April 1, 2013. The *Inuit Language Protection Act* was also passed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Assembly in 2008, and has been coming into force in stages since that time. Sections 3-5 and 9-10 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* are not in force.

Ms. Sandra Inutiq is the current Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. She assumed her duties as Languages Commissioner on January 14, 2013. The Languages Commissioner's 2012-2013 annual report was tabled in the House on May 22, 2014.

The Standing Committee recognizes that the Languages Commissioner assumed her duties after the 2012-2013 fiscal year had already begun, following a four month period during which the position was vacant. The Standing Committee also recognizes that the Languages Commissioner has previously experienced challenges in staffing her office, which has caused delays in number of its activities.

The Standing Committee held its hearing on the Languages Commissioner's 2012-2013 annual report on September 22, 2014. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe and was broadcast on local radio, cable and satellite television. The proceedings were interpreted in all official languages. Transcripts from the hearing have been produced in all official languages and are available to the public through the Legislative Assembly's website.

The Languages Commissioner has three main areas of responsibility: the investigation and resolution of concerns relating to language rights, providing guidance and support to various bodies and institutions, and the administration of her office.

As a part of its mandate, the Office of the Languages Commissioner monitors the performance of territorial institutions in providing services and information to the public in Nunavut's official languages. Consequently, the Standing Committee maintains the view that the Languages Commissioner must lead by example as she carries out her duties as ombudsman, advocate, monitor and advisor for language rights in Nunavut. The Standing Committee was therefore disappointed that the Languages Commissioner failed to produce an Inuit language translation of her opening comments during its recent hearing.

The Standing Committee maintains the view that in order for the Languages Commissioner to successfully fulfill her mandate as ombudsman, monitor and advisor on language rights issues, she must ensure that her office provides the highest quality of services that it expects of all other territorial organizations.

During the Standing Committee's recent hearing, the Languages Commissioner raised concerns in relation to the government's current hiring processes, including the extent to which language proficiency is recognized in its Priority Hiring Policy. The Standing Committee acknowledges the value of official languages proficiency and notes that this issue merits ongoing attention.

During its recent hearing, the Standing Committee raised concerns regarding the Languages Commissioner's own hiring practices. For example, the Languages Commissioner recently hired an employee for her office by way of direct appointment. The Standing Committee maintains the view that the Languages Commissioner must lead by example in practicing fair and transparent hiring, and strongly encourages the Languages Commissioner to fill vacant positions in her office through competitive hiring processes to the greatest practical extent.

The Standing Committee notes that the Languages Commissioner recently signed an open letter to the Premier of Nunavut in which she raised concerns regarding the government's initiatives to increase Inuit employment in the public sector. The Standing Committee recognizes and respects the independent role of the Languages Commissioner in monitoring issues related to language services in the territory and raising concerns as necessary.

However, the Standing Committee also notes that the Languages Commissioner's primary mechanism for raising concerns and making recommendations is through her formal reports to the Legislative Assembly. The Standing Committee strongly encourages the Languages Commissioner to use the appropriate instruments available to her office in order to effectively address issues related to language rights and services in Nunavut.

The Standing Committee of the previous Legislative Assembly recommended that the Languages Commissioner provide greater detail on her office's initiatives and benchmarks by which her office could measure its success. The Standing Committee recognizes the Languages Commissioner's efforts to provide more detail on her office's initiatives in its 2012-2013 annual report. However, the Standing Committee is of the view that the Languages Commissioner should provide more detail on her office's expenditures. For example, although the Languages Commissioner indicated that her office incurred significant expenditures on travel and contract services during the 2012-2013 fiscal year, her annual report did not clearly describe the nature or results of these expenditures.

The Standing Committee of the previous Legislative Assembly also recommended that the Languages Commissioner meet with language stakeholders to address issues related to statutory obligations under the territory's official languages legislation. The Standing Committee notes that the Languages Commissioner's 2012-2013 annual report listed meetings and conferences that her office had attended, including meetings with stakeholders such as the Inuit Language Authority, the Minister of Languages and officials from the Department of Education. The Standing Committee is of the view that more information on the substance and outcomes of such meetings will provide more transparency on the Office of the Languages Commissioner's initiatives.

The Standing Committee encourages the Languages Commissioner to ensure that her office leads by example as it works to meet statutory language obligations, exercise fair hiring processes, utilize appropriate mechanisms to fulfill its mandate and provide transparency through detailed and comprehensive reporting.

### **Standing Committee Recommendation #1**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Languages Commissioner's future annual reports to the Legislative Assembly provide detailed information on her office's staffing initiatives during the fiscal year.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Languages Commissioner be mindful that her formal reports to the Legislative Assembly are the most appropriate and effective means of raising concerns and making recommendations to the government.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Languages Commissioner's future annual reports to the Legislative Assembly provide detailed and comprehensive breakdowns of her office's expenditures in areas such as travel and contract services.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Languages Commissioner's future annual reports to the Legislative Assembly provide greater detail on the purpose and outcomes of meetings and conferences that her office attends during the fiscal year.

Section 12 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* came into force on September 19, 2011. This section provides that public sector employers shall accommodate individuals who prefer to speak the Inuit language during recruitment or in the workplace.

During the Standing Committee's recent hearing, the Languages Commissioner raised concerns that individuals are unaware of their right to submit applications in the Inuit language for positions in the public service. The Languages Commissioner also indicated that her office has observed that a number of employees in the public service are not aware of their right to work in the Inuit language.

The Standing Committee firmly supports the protection and promotion of the Inuit language and the expansion of its use in the government. During the Standing Committee's recent hearing, Members expressed concerns regarding the state of the government's hiring practices and its apparent lack of compliance with section 12 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

During the Standing Committee's recent hearing, the Languages Commissioner indicated that her office may undertake a systemic investigation on the Government of Nunavut's human resources practices. The Standing Committee encourages the Languages Commissioner to focus on the government's statutory obligations under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* as her office progresses with its work in this area.

#### **Standing Committee Recommendation #2**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Languages Commissioner undertake a review of the implementation of section 12 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and that her findings be provided as a detailed and comprehensive companion to her 2014-2015 annual report to the Legislative Assembly.



Section 6 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* came into force on September 9, 2012, and requires all municipalities to provide services in the Inuit Language.

Subsection 12(8) of the *Official Languages Act* came into force on April 1, 2013, and requires municipalities to provide communications and services to the public in an official language where there is a significant demand for that official language.

During the Standing Committee's recent hearing, the Languages Commissioner indicated that a number of municipalities are struggling to secure funding and other resources with which to develop and establish adequate language services and signage programs in the communities. While the Standing Committee notes that the Languages Commissioner has made efforts to inform municipalities of their statutory language obligations, Members were of the view that further work could be done to monitor the adequacy of language services provided by the territory's municipalities.

In her 2012-2013 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Languages Commissioner used a scoring system to evaluate the Government of Nunavut's performance in issuing news releases in all official languages. In this evaluation, the Languages Commissioner assigned grades to a number of the government's departments and offices. These grades were presented in comparison with grades that her office had assigned in previous fiscal years. This allowed the Languages Commissioner to illustrate which departments and offices had improved their performance and which departments required more work. The Standing Committee notes that the Legislative Assembly was graded for the first time during the 2012-2013 fiscal year and received an "A" for its performance.

The Standing Committee maintains the view that this type of evaluation provides Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public with a clear assessment of which organizations require further work in meeting their statutory language obligations. This scoring system could also provide incentive for other organizations, in both the public and private sectors, to improve their efforts in providing written communications to the public in all official languages. The Standing Committee encourages the Languages Commissioner to utilize a similar type of evaluation as her office monitors the implementation of Nunavut's official languages legislation at the municipal level.

The Standing Committee also encourages the Languages Commissioner to perform periodic site visits to Nunavut's communities to determine which municipalities are meeting their statutory language obligations. The Standing Committee also encourages the Languages Commissioner to work closely with municipal organizations, including the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, to develop strategies that will allow her office to effectively monitor and advise the implementation of Nunavut's official languages legislation at the municipal level.

### **Standing Committee Recommendation #3**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Languages Commissioner establish a strategy and methodology for her office to effectively monitor and evaluate the status of the implementation of the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* at the municipal level of government in Nunavut.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Languages Commissioner develop a timeframe for her office to undertake site visits to Nunavut's communities to determine the adequacy of language services and signage programs at the municipal level.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Languages Commissioner work closely with municipal organizations, including the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, when her office monitors and advises municipalities in relation to their statutory language obligations.

In its report on the review of the Languages Commissioner's 2011-2012 annual report, the Standing Committee of the previous Legislative Assembly recommended that the Languages Commissioner address issues relating to the delivery of language services by federal departments, agencies and federally-regulated entities in Nunavut.

The *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that organizations which are required to comply with the legislation include public sector bodies. The *Inuit Language Protection Act* defines a public sector body to mean "a department of the Government of Nunavut or public agency, or a federal department, agency or institution."

During the Standing Committee's recent hearing, the Languages Commissioner indicated that her office has had a number of discussions with federally-regulated entities such as airlines and banks. However, the Standing Committee is of the view that more work can be done to ensure that the federal departments, agencies and federally-regulated entities in Nunavut are meeting language obligations under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

#### **Standing Committee Recommendation #4**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Languages Commissioner establish a strategy and methodology for her office to effectively monitor and evaluate the status of language services provided by federal departments, agencies and federally-regulated entities in Nunavut.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Languages Commissioner include in her future annual reports to the Legislative Assembly specific, comprehensive and detailed information on the status of language services provided by federal departments, agencies and federally-regulated entities in Nunavut.

In its report on the review of the Languages Commissioner's 2011-2012 annual report, the Standing Committee of the previous Legislative Assembly recommended that the Languages Commissioner work with the Minister of Languages to develop and establish policies that would allow her office to effectively monitor the implementation of Nunavut's official languages legislation. During the Standing Committee's recent hearing, the Languages Commissioner indicated that her office had recently begun discussing the need to address the issue of language-related policies within the Government of Nunavut.

The Standing Committee recognizes that the Government of Nunavut is responsible for establishing formal policies, procedures and guidelines by which the public service is expected to fulfill its statutory language obligations.

Subsection 13(2)(c) of the *Official Languages Act* provides that the Minister of Languages shall "coordinate the implementation, monitoring, management and evaluation of language obligations, policies, programs and services by departments of the Government of Nunavut and public agencies."

Subsection 24(2)(a) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that the Minister of Languages shall "develop policies or programs intended to promote ... the use and development of the Inuit Language so that it can be used in the full range of activities and sectors of Nunavut society."

On October 30, 2012, the previous Minister of Languages tabled the government's plan for its implementation of Nunavut's official language legislation. This document indicates that one of the government's implementation priorities for the period between 2012-2013 and 2015-2016 is to "develop and implement policies and guidelines to support the delivery of both oral and written communications and services in the Official Languages."

Although the territory's official languages legislation is largely in force, the Standing Committee is of the view that more work is required to establish and effectively implement these necessary policies, procedures and guidelines.

### **Standing Committee Recommendation #5**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report account, in detail, for its progress to date in developing policies, procedures and guidelines that provide direction on how its departments and agencies are expected meet their statutory obligations under Nunavut's official languages legislation.

**The Standing Committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed timeframe in which these necessary policies, procedures and guidelines are to be implemented.

During the Standing Committee's recent hearing, the Languages Commissioner indicated that the government has been failing to provide adequate transparency in relation to its initiatives on language training, services and promotion.

Section 27 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* came into force on September 18, 2008, and requires the Minister of Languages to submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly that describes the government's work in fulfilling its statutory obligations under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

The Minister of Languages tabled the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 annual reports under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* on May 22, 2014. The Standing Committee encourages the Minister of Languages to table the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 annual reports under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* in a timely manner.

Section 15 of the *Official Languages Act* came into force on April 1, 2013. The Standing Committee notes that this section requires the Minister of Languages to submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly under the *Official Languages Act* within 12 months after the end of each fiscal year. The Standing Committee looks forward to reviewing the first annual report under the *Official Languages Act*, and encourages the Minister to table the annual report in a timely manner.

Subsection 12(7)(c) of the *Official Languages Act* and sections 3-5 and 9-10 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* have not yet come into force. These sections include provisions that will require the government's third-party contractors to provide services in all official languages, require the private sector to provide services in the Inuit Language and require the government to develop and implement Inuit language programs for early childhood and adult education.

The Standing Committee recognizes that the Government of Nunavut is responsible for determining the timeline for bringing these sections into force, and that the government bears significant responsibility for developing the necessary policies by which to implement these and other aspects of the territory's official languages legislation.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #6**

**The Standing Committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed timeline for the coming into force of subsection 12(7)(c) of the *Official Languages Act* and sections 3-5 and 9-10 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.