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**DAY 39**

**Friday, March 1, 2019**

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**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Joe Enook, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Tununiq)

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(Quttiktuq)

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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Minister responsible for the  
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**Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)

**Allan Rumbolt**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Friday, March 1, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>> *House commenced at 9:00*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Joe Enook) (interpretation): Ms. Towtongie, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>> *Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. (interpretation ends) Premier (interpretation) and my colleagues, good morning. Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, good morning and welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

Going to the orders of the day. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, members. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq and the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the

order paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, and 18 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 17 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

However, I ask that you remain at your desks as we will proceed directly to the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 13, 15, 16, 17, and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 Main Estimates of the Department of Education, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services, and then possibly the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Does the committee agree that we first deal with Bill 15?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Education – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to ask Minister Joanasié: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Nunavummiut. I would like to get approval, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Thank you very much, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Minister Joanasié, please introduce your officials. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are the same ones. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Louise Flaherty, and to my left is Comptroller Abraham Suleiman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. We will now proceed. (interpretation ends) G-11. Education. Educator Development. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that fetal alcohol syndrome disorder, or FASD, can be extremely difficult in the classroom. I understand that students diagnosed with FASD have very high requirements and may require special rooms that allow them to be more focused or to allow them to actually focus on their work.

I would like to ask under Educator Development: what sort of training is provided to our educators on teaching students that are diagnosed with FASD? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. Some students require very specific needs and need one-on-one support, but I'm going to have my deputy elaborate on what types of training is provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Flaherty** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When children are identified and given support, the teachers are supported by the school team with the resources in how to deal with keeping the children on task and by providing what kind of spaces the child requires. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this type of training provided by the department itself? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to get back to the member to let him know if it's either through the department or a third party. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate receiving that information at a later date and I would also like to request information on who is responsible for providing that training. Is the department itself the one that's funding this programming or is it coming out of the teachers' professional training fund?

I'll move on. With regard to FASD, there's speculation that there's a large number of individuals in the territory who are undiagnosed with FASD. I would also like to enquire if teachers are provided with training on how to identify those who may have been undiagnosed, and if the teachers have training on how to give referrals to these students to then receive the testing required to be diagnosed with FASD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Teachers aren't able to diagnose FASD. They are not health professionals, Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to remind the minister that I didn't ask if teachers are diagnosing students with FASD. I highlighted the fact that there are a large number of people in the territory, including students, who have undiagnosed FASD. I enquired if teachers are receiving training to identify those who are undiagnosed and then give the teachers the ability to refer those students to medical professionals who then undertake the medical examinations to diagnose. I'll ask the question again: do teachers have the training available to them to identify those students that are undiagnosed, and then have the ability to refer them to get the examinations required? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right in that there are many that have undiagnosed FASD. We are not even able to track. We have no tracking available to say how many X amount of students require support for FASD-related... . Our staff are able to make referrals if there is a concern related to any kind of learning disability or challenges so that they can try to get further support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a little bit taken aback by the minister's response that the department doesn't have figures on how many students are diagnosed with FASD considering the substantial requirements that these students need. FASD has a wide spectrum of requirements and some of which are as extreme as requiring a very clean, white room and such use of items like heavy blankets to calm the children down. I would like to ask the minister if he would commit to tracking that information. I think the department would find it extremely useful. I am curious: given that the teachers do have the ability to provide referrals for such testing, how often is it actually taking place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe these FASD or student needs, special needs would be under student achievement page, but just to further respond to the member, as and when needed, we do make those assessments and referrals. It's a highly specialized area and we need the expertise to be able to make those assessments. We need the support there too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to stick to the topic of educator development, including giving the teachers the knowledge to recognize and refer students with learning disabilities, including FASD, but I would like to ask again: how often do teachers use their authority to refer students that may have undiagnosed

learning disabilities? How often do teachers refer these students to get the medical examinations required? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow my deputy to respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Flaherty.

**Ms. Flaherty** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When a teacher in the first few months identifies a child with a learning challenge, right from the get-go she requests the support from the school team and then a referral is made about that child when all avenues have been addressed, so in the first few months. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Education. Educator Development. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning and thank you for allowing me to speak.

As I tend to speak, I want to talk about the issue of language. The Department of Education focuses on providing support and training. I believe they provide training to our teachers. What specific initiatives are being brought forward to enhance the level of Inuktitut language proficiency of all Nunavut teachers, educators, and staff? Are they trained in Inuktitut? Are there initiatives taking place where Inuktitut is taught as

a second language? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some teachers that are new to the territory have an orientation to the community that they're going to. We support all teachers that want to learn Inuktitut, but we do have some problems. Timing is always an issue when they're in the classroom. Is it done in the evening? They have their own stuff going on after hours, such as (interpretation ends) extracurricular activities, sports, (interpretation) and so on. We want to provide more training in different aspects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll speak English. English is a major language that is taught, so I would like them to work harder on teaching Inuktitut.

(interpretation ends) The department's [Educator Development] Branch focuses on recruiting new employees to Nunavut schools. What is the current status of the department's standardized orientation package for new educators and how many indigenous cultural competency workshops have been delivered to date? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): One moment. (interpretation ends) In the department we have a Nunavut educator development orientation package that's going to be... . We are working it out to have four components to it, which would include orientation, mentorship, professional development, and a new website that would point to resources or supports available for new teachers.

As for the second part of the question, I would have to get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, from kindergarten up to grade 3 or 4, can you clarify that as well? Are they taught Inuktitut in kindergarten to grade 3 or 4? I would like you to clarify that as I want to ask more questions on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the question refers to G-10, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Minister Quassa or Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking in English. (interpretation ends) One of the department's priorities have been to develop a comprehensive departmental training plan and ensure that educators receive information on training opportunities that are available. Has this initiative resulted in more Nunavut educators taking advantage of the

training opportunities? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
(interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. We did work on a professional development framework in partnership with the Nunavut Teachers Association and it was looking at the different types of groups under the Nunavut NTA agreement, such as classroom teachers, learning coaches, student support teachers, school leaders, so we set standards for them.

With that we also introduced the Sivummuqpaallirutiksats education leave program that's targeting Inuit employees, and then there is also the Certificate in Education Leadership in Nunavut (CELN). These are all available for Inuit beneficiaries and we want to continue to have them available more and more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to return to my original question related to the Inuktitut language and the importance of prioritizing it. It would be incumbent on us if all teachers, at least ideally, are provided the opportunity. As the minister stated previously, if the teachers express a desire or interest, that opportunity is provided. I doubt that it should be optional given that we are in the Inuit homelands, where Inuktitut is the subject of much debate to have it as a working language and used in

government.

The teachers who are unilingual English speakers, from my perspective, should be chomping at the bits to learn Inuktitut, and I am always supportive of our teachers who are tasked with a tremendous workload and I voice my appreciation. Nonetheless, when it comes to our language, it must be respected and acknowledged as the primary language of the Inuit students who are in schools who have to be fluent in spoken and written Inuktitut.

Now, our teachers in Nunavut should be able to understand simple Inuktitut, as we have been informed in the past, and members have heard of incidents in our schools where the students are speaking in their language of Inuktitut, but some teachers with low self-esteem imagine they are the subject of derision when their students are speaking only in Inuktitut.

There are situations that totally prove this lack of linguistic trust, and due to this fact I will make this a final...now I understand why. This really is my last commentary, but I believe that teachers should be taught simple Inuktitut. Does the minister share this perspective for non-Inuktitut speaking teachers? Hopefully I came across clearly with my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that would be a good initiative to have this available for teachers, but under the indigenous cultural competency training funds, there is a service provided that

deals with (interpretation ends) Inuit cultural competency training (interpretation) as this is used to educate teachers about the primary cultural practices and language can be included. We have just found the figures specific to that fund. In fiscal year 2018-19 the fund was used four times in our schools, in Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) G-11. Education. Educator Development. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to everybody.

I would like to talk about teachers and my first question is: can the department, can the minister tell us how many teachers are out on stress leave? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanase** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Sorry, I don't have that information, but I can dig that out and bring it to the member. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. Thank you for that. Thanks for your response and your willingness to do that.

To me, when I think about being a teacher, I'm not a teacher, but you have a lot of children and you have a lot of responsibilities. I live across from a

school and I can see that teachers are at work before seven o'clock in the morning. They work really hard.

You're asking a teacher to deal with all sorts of situations: bullying situations, learning disability situations, the stresses from parents with their demands.

There's a lot going on when you look at the teachers' work environment. That's why I asked that question. That must be very stressful. If a teacher is feeling stressed with all of those demands, how does the department deal with that? What are the resources available for teachers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanase** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The teachers, (interpretation ends) we do recognize their hard working and there's a lot involved with teaching. We do want to provide as much support as we can in their abilities. When a teacher feels overwhelmed with the workload and the stresses, they can request leave, as the member stated about stress leave, and it is similar to how medical leave is applied. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us, though, what kinds of interventions are done before you get to that point? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the teacher works in conjunction with the team leader, the principal and/or vice-principal to see if there are any further supports that can be made available to continue to address their stresses or workload. They can work out if there's some way to balance it out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go to a different section here. We have kind of heard in the past, and I'm not saying this is true or not and we shouldn't go on assumptions, so I would like to ask the minister: how many times has a teacher been in place for a while and then you find out later on that maybe they don't have the correct qualifications to be in that position? Has there ever been a case where that has happened? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to my knowledge, but our Educator Development Division is in charge of teacher certification. They look at all the teachers who apply to see what qualifications they have. We work very hard to validate that all staff have the highest qualifications available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how that validation is done? I know that there are a lot of...well, I don't know. I

have heard that there are places where you can buy fake degrees and stuff, and you know there are a lot of rumours around. I'm wondering: how does the department actually make sure that these qualifications are real? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, Mr. Chairman, have Mr. Suleiman respond to the member. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Suleiman.

**Mr. Suleiman:** Thank you, Chairman. I thank the member for the question. As a department we don't initially certify wherever the individual has received their degree. That body needs to have certified them within their home province or territory. We re-certify, so the validation occurs before they work in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister give me a better understanding of how you re-certify? Do you make them go through more tests, or how is that done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) I think it's to validate their qualifications, but also with that, all competitions get checked

through HR with reference checks.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On to my next question, when we talk about new teachers, I guess my first question about new teachers is: what's the percentage of your turnover? How many new teachers are we getting every year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It varies depending on the individual, so I'll have to collect some of that information for the member, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister: when a new teacher arrives at the school, what kinds of support services are provided? Is the teacher on a mentorship? Is there somebody looking over the shoulder of this new teacher? What kinds of services and supports are in place for the new teacher? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have a system to have mentorship available to new teachers. It's also with the idea to help them professionally develop when they're right out of teacher college or university. I'm sure it's quite different

from when they do their studies and then go into the classroom. We do try our best to support them in that transition.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a nurse graduates, it's mandatory that they have one-year mentorship. Is that the same for a new teacher? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if it's mandatory, but it is available. To further elaborate, the DEAs do orientation for new teachers on an annual basis, but I'll have to clarify if it's mandatory to have mentorship in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I would like to, if it isn't mandatory, perhaps maybe for a brand-new person coming in from, if they're coming in from the south into a smaller community, I think it would help with the retention of teachers to have that kind of support. You don't always know what kind of support you need until you're facing the situation. I would like to encourage the department to make it mandatory for one year.

The other question I have about teachers is: if I am a qualified teacher and I'm in a classroom and I'm teaching a course, I'm sure I'm following some kind of

curriculum or whatever, but who is providing some oversight to see if I'm doing a good job at it or not? Who is there? Is that the principal's job or whose role is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be the principal and vice-principals together and normally a teaching position has a two-year probationary period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) G-11. Education. Educator Development. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,951,000. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. G-12. Education. Advanced Education. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,841,000. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Go back to page G-3. Department Summary. Education. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$215,158,000. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Education? Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Closing comments, Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues for their questions, as well as my officials that were here with me and all of my staff in the Department of Education, especially the teachers who help our children succeed. They have a huge responsibility. Let us give them all of our support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) We will take a short five-minute break to set up for the next department.

>> *Committee recessed at 9:42 and resumed at 9:52*

### **Bill 15 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2019-2020 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Good morning. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Kusugak

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. 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 officials in.

For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials, then proceed with your opening comments. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Constance Hourie, my Deputy Minister, and on my left is Kyle Seeley, my Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I appear before you today to review the Department of Community and Government Services' main estimates and business plan.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services continues to manage programs and services for local governments, petroleum products, procurement and logistics, emergency management, information management/information technology, project management, facilities management, safety services, lands management, and sport and recreation.

Our projected budget includes a net increase of \$4.04 million over last year's main estimates. This budget increase primarily relates to the consolidation of all departmental interim leases from GN departments to CGS, additional leasing costs associated with office space for the new Department of Human Resources, and \$1.7 million to support Team Nunavut's participation in the 2020

Arctic Winter Games.

During my appearance before the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development last month, we discussed a number of important initiatives my department has underway. This included details on the proposed Katittuq Nunavut project, which will connect Nunavut to the rest of the world via undersea fibre cable through Nuuk, Greenland. We also discussed improving telecommunications in all Nunavut communities. We have been working closely with subject matter experts and vendors evaluating the different technologies and determining the best solutions for each community.

As well, we discussed the status of current municipal infrastructure projects and how my department is working with municipalities to ensure their infrastructure needs are addressed. Nunavut's long-term infrastructure plan outlines the infrastructure plans. This has been shared with all of the members. The long-term infrastructure plan is a plan that identifies territorial and community infrastructure priorities eligible through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Furthermore, I committed to my colleagues in the standing committee that CGS will provide a document that outlines which of our projects were on time and on budget. We expect to have a final document ready for submission during the fall session on capital estimates.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the department's Emergency Measures Division has been working hard to improve search and rescue response

available to the public. In 2018 there were 216 searches, 69 of which were triggered by SPOT devices. We continue to promote the use of SPOT devices and increase awareness of safety preparedness measures for all individuals going out on the land or water.

(interpretation ends) The CGS Infrastructure Branch includes three regional infrastructure offices and headquarters project management office, which are responsible for project delivery (planning, design and construction phases) of all GN major and minor capital projects. This does not include, however, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The branch currently oversees approximately 200 capital projects, valued at approximately \$1.3 billion.

Mr. Chairman, CGS is a service-based department and we continue to work collaboratively with all departments and our municipal government partners to meet the goals of *Turaaqtavut*.

(interpretation) Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words, Mr. Chairman. If members have questions, we would be more than happy to answer them. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, members.

I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing

Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The department's proposed 2019-2020 operations and maintenance budget of \$255,647,000 represents a 1.6 percent increase from its 2018-19 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is decreasing from 452.0 PYs to 449.0 PYs.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The department's proposed 2019-2020 main estimates include approximately \$64.8 million for 11 different funding programs that support communities, including the Municipal Funding Program, the Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Program, and the Mobile Equipment Block Funding Program. The amounts provided under these programs have remained largely unchanged in recent fiscal years. The standing committee notes that the department's NAMIX Grants and Contributions Funding Policy and the Grants in Lieu of Property Taxes Program Policy have recently expired.

On December 7, 2018 the department issued a *Request for Proposals - Nunavut Municipal Funding: Analysis and Planning*. The RFP closed on January 11, 2019. The stated purpose of the RFP is to "develop a 5-year plan and operating cycle for the administration of the Municipal Funding Program (MFP) and the Water and Sewage Services

Subsidy Program (WSSSP), aligned with municipal needs and the GN policy framework and budget cycle, to ensure the ongoing responsiveness of these programs to evolving municipal needs.” Subsection 4(c) of the RFP’s terms of reference provides that one of the objectives of the work is to “Draft a 4-year plan and budget for key analyses needed to revisit funding allocations (culminating in business case for FMB cycle in June of 2022 for 2023-24 fiscal year)” It is unclear if this means that current funding levels for municipalities will remain unchanged until the 2023-24 fiscal year. On December 14, 2018 the department issued a *Request for Proposals - Nunavut Municipal Funding: Analysis and Planning*. The RFP closed on January 16, 2019. The stated purpose of the RFP is to “...review the organizational structure, mandate, operational plans and human/financial resources of three non-government agencies funded by the Department of Community and Government Services: the Nunavut Municipal Training Organization, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators.” The standing committee looks forward to the results of both reviews being tabled in the Legislative Assembly and provided to Nunavut’s mayors and municipal councils.

The department’s proposed 2019-2020 main estimates include approximately \$4.3 million for seven different funding programs that support sports and recreation. This amount represents an increase of approximately 11.4 percent over the amount provided in the 2018-19 main estimates. Although the department’s main estimates and

business plan indicate that it has significantly reorganized its grants and contributions funding programs, the department does not yet appear to have publicly released an updated Sports and Recreation Grants and Contributions Policy, the most recent version of which expired on March 31, 2017. The standing committee urges this to be done in a timely manner.

Amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* were passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2017. These amendments addressed the issue of cheque-cashing fees for government cheques and other matters. The department’s draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is to “Continue to refresh and disseminate consumer affairs public [education] materials, which include clarification of federal responsibilities regarding consumer protection.” During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members noted the increasing prevalence of charitable and personal fundraising activities undertaken by both organizations and individuals that offer participation in gaming activities that are not necessarily operating under a clear regulatory framework. The standing committee encourages the department to ensure that regulations made under the *Lotteries Act* keep pace with changes in this area.

The department’s 2018-2021 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year was to “...continue to work on improvements to the Government of Nunavut’s capital planning process” in collaboration with the Department of Finance. The department’s draft 2019-2022 business

plan indicates that it "...worked with Municipalities to review the Integrated Community Sustainability Planning process and considered options to improve the integration of community infrastructure needs into the GN's capital planning framework." The standing committee looks forward to the public release of the government's updated Capital Planning Process Handbook.

Nunavut's current territorial *Emergency Measures Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2007. Sections 5 through 9 of the legislation provides for the preparation of "emergency management programs" on the part of government institutions and municipal councils. However, although it has been over a decade since the legislation was passed, these provisions have still not been brought into force. The standing committee notes that the department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that one of the department's priorities for the upcoming fiscal year is to "Work collaboratively with GN departments to develop...Departmental Emergency Preparedness Plans." The standing committee will continue to monitor progress in this area.

The department's 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-2020 capital estimates included a number of "funding bundles" for infrastructure related to water, wastewater, and solid waste. The department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is to "Develop [a] Drinking Water Strategy and Action Plan and distribute to relevant stakeholders." The standing committee will monitor the progress of this initiative, as well as the progress of

the Department of Environment's complementary initiative to develop a new "Water Program," the stated purpose of which is to support "building capacity and knowledge prior to the devolution of water resource-related responsibilities from the Government of Canada," in addition to supporting "negotiations on transboundary watershed agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions."

The department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that "the Eastern Arctic Undersea Fibre Optic Network study for phase 1 is underway and that "a desk side study took place in fall of 2018 for the Kivalliq region." The standing committee notes that the "Undersea Fibre Optic Cable Installation Project" has been submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board for approval.

On May 16, 2002 the Government of Nunavut's *Ikuma II Report* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This report recommended the establishment of a new "Qulliq Fuel Corporation," which would assume the responsibilities of the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services and which would operate alongside the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates that one of its goals for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is to "Perform an analysis of various structural and corporate options for the division."

The standing committee continues to recommend that the Minister of Community and Government Services begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly

concerning the operations of the Petroleum Products Division. Mr. Chairman, as a note, we know this document exists; it's just that it's an internal document and it has never been tabled. The standing committee continues to recommend that this report include comprehensive and detailed information concerning the department's actions in response to environmental protection compliance orders, as well as such operational issues as rates of fuel evaporation, shrinkage, spillage and theft in Nunavut communities, in addition to information concerning inventory management practices and innovations.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2019-2020 Main Estimates and 2019-2022 Business Plan of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Like I said before, if any students are watching, graduate and you will read well like Mr. Rumbolt. Thank you.

Before we proceed, like our own Mr. Speaker would say, I will be making an executive decision this morning. I want to advise all members that as your Chair, I will exercise my discretion and will recognize members only once on each branch.

Thank you. Do members have any general comments before we proceed?  
Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, minister and your officials.

I agree with the minister that the work

carried on by his department is very important to all communities, and the funding that we are reviewing is a large sum, \$255 million. It is one of the largest budgets compared to other government departments, so there are numerous questions that will undoubtedly arise, but since the proposed budget is large, if I failed to ask questions and be silent, then I think I would have abdicated my duties as an MLA. As members, we represent all communities. It's only by asking questions that we fulfill our duties.

I thank the minister because we got additional details and information at the committee meeting. It will make an improvement to the dialogue that we want to be holding in the House, which will benefit Nunavummiut, and I look forward to it. That's all. Thank, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

The minister touched on the issue of search and rescue operations and importance of those types of organizations, which I appreciate. Indeed they are important and there are many search and rescue operations in the communities. Search and rescue organizations request additional support by way of materials and equipment for their ongoing work in the Arctic.

I would like to thank the minister for saying that they will continue to work hard to support search and rescue operators. He also urged people to use SPOT devices when they are going out

on land, which are very useful, but I hope that local search and rescue operators see additional support from the government. I wanted to make that comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Quassa. General comments? Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials. I'm pleased to see the documents. It has been a year that we have been talking about what we want to see and hear from our minister. It's clear that the work is not done, but we can see progress being made in looking at the documents, and we will want to ask questions on the statements that were made. I thank the minister for making progress on those fronts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Seeing no more names, we will proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page J-4. Community and Government Services Directorate. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is going to be on the minister's opening comments. On the second page there is reference to lease agreements on behalf of departments, as well as additional leasing costs associated with the office space for the new Department of Human Resources of \$1.7 million.

We have yet to hear anything about the creation of the new Department of HR, which is why I want to ask this question, specifically with regard to the lease of this new office space. Where will it be? Is it going to be large enough house all

HR employees or is it just going to be large enough for some divisions? I'm sort of curious about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Lightstone for that question. With regard to interim office leases for the department that I will be the minister of, we are still negotiating the office space for HR. It will take another week or two before we finalize a lease agreement, but right now we are negotiating and looking for space to lease. We will find out whether it will be adequate for the departmental staff. We are still working out the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that the lease agreement has not been signed in the hopes that it will be signed next week. I hope that next week we will be able to hear some more about that.

I'll move on to my next question and it's regarding the opening comments from the standing committee. "The standing committee continues to recommend that the Minister of Community and Government Services begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning the operations of the Petroleum Products Division." I would like to ask the minister: what is his stance on this recommendation? Can we expect to see these annual reports tabled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really think there is too much of an issue of whether we should table the document or not or make it available. Most definitely I don't see it as an issue to provide that document to the standing committee, Mr. Chairman. They have provided it before. It's not a requirement by our department to produce the annual report, but I don't see why we shouldn't have a problem providing it to my colleagues. It just provides them with more detailed information and keeps us more open, and I see more benefits in it than not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday my colleague, Mr. Main, touched on a very crucial topic and that's the essential or non-essential spending on out-of-territory duty travel. I would like to ask the minister: what is the current process of approving out-of-territory duty travel and if there's going to be a change in that process in 2019-2020? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we have. Not much different than any other department, if there is to be duty travel, the person who is asking for the travel has to be approved by their supervisors and it goes all the way up to the deputy minister. In case of out-of-territory travel, it goes through that and probably more stringently that it goes up through the supervisor's level all the way up to the deputy minister. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask or enquire about what type of out-of-territory travel is being approved. Is it professional development? Is it meetings? Is it trade shows or conferences? What type of duty travel is being approved and what type of employees are going on out-of-territory travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Mr. Chairman, all of the above. Mr. Chairman, we do have to participate in some trade shows where our department is necessary to be there. If there is a national conference on betterment of sport and anti-bullying in sport, then we will have people in our sport directorate go there and participate in those things.

If it's a trade show *per se* in Winnipeg that we were in a couple of weeks ago, only the people who pertain to that particular issue were there. Many of them went back home immediately after their portion was completed and didn't stay through the whole event.

It just varies depending on what the meeting is about and if our departmental staff need to attend, and they do and they are there for the duration of their participation in the event, Mr. Chairman. Again, that has to be approved by our deputy minister before any of that kind of travel is approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the department's overall \$6 million request for travel is miniscule in comparison of the \$250 million budget, but I would like to know in the past how much out-of-territory duty travel has been spent on professional development and how much of this 2019-2020 \$6 million budget is intended for employees to go out of the territory to receive professional development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is quite a sum of money for duty travel for our department, but it is all inclusive, Mr. Chairman. We do have game starters, we do have to go and we do go to every single community in our territory, we do have some out-of-territory events and trips that we have to go to. That's all encompassing, but we don't have it broken down to what was spent on duty travel for professional development. If we were to do that, we would have to look at prior years, but that travel includes all of the above, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that the minister start tracking the amount of out-of-territory duty travel for professional development going into 2019-2020.

I will move on to my next item. I have noticed that the division of finance and procurement has lost two positions. I would like to enquire what they are and

why those essential positions are being lost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have my deputy respond through you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

**Ms. Hourie:** Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Both of those positions were short-term positions and we are looking at getting funding for those in the next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move on to my next topic and that's regarding employment in the Department of CGS. As of December, the department was sitting at 60 percent capacity. I have heard issues concerning the level of the department's reliance on contracts to fill vacant positions. I would like to enquire currently how many positions are being filled by contractors or contract employees and how many of these positions will continue in 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It appears that we don't have that detail with us, but I would be more than happy to share it with my colleague as soon as we have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate receiving that information. While we're on the topic of contracts, I was curious why the minister had yet to table the most recent procurement and activity report, and when we can expect to see that crucial information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that the CAR-PAR-LAR? I believe we will be able to table that, it's still under construction, in the spring session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to seek clarification on common practice. I believe in prior years that document has been tabled in the fall along with the public accounts. I just wanted to ask if the common practice is tabling it in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for the question. All I could say is that we didn't have it ready in the fall and it will be ready in the spring, and we will try to do better. I'm hoping we might be able to squeeze it in before this session is over, but if not, definitely by spring session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next topic. It has been identified through one of the responses to my written questions on

staff housing that the department has a relatively low number of Inuit participation in staff housing. I would like to enquire if the minister has identified the same issue and if there is any objective on ensuring more Inuit who are working for the Department of CGS will be able to take advantage of the staff housing program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the question because I was curious also when my colleague had enquired about the staff housing issues throughout the government and other departments. It got me curious on to our department and where we stand in that, and what kind of interest there is within CGS in terms of accessing staff housing or getting involved in the staff housing program. We are definitely looking into that. I, too, am curious and I would be more than happy, once we garner that information, to share it with you and our colleagues here to see where we are and how we could improve. One of the best ways to find that out is talking to the Inuit and non-Inuit employees as to look at it all and see where we stand and see where maybe we could make improvements if we need to, to support housing programs for CGS staff, Inuit and non-Inuit alike. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response. I'll move on to my next question. In another response to one of my written questions on education leave, the Department of

CGS was listed as having four employees taking advantage of the education leave last fiscal year. I was happy to see that 75 percent of them were Inuit employees, but I would like to ask the minister if there has been any direction given at promoting the education leave policy to Inuit who are currently employed in the Department of CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Education and learning more ways to do your job better or opportunities for people within CGS to move up in their skill level or skill sets to be able to tackle bigger responsibilities is one that we don't take lightly. We encourage it and we do notify or let all the departmental staff know that there are such opportunities, and we encourage participation in these opportunities to all our staff. We encourage them to let their supervisors and their department heads know if and when they would like to participate in any training program to advance their skill sets within our department. I know my deputy and assistant deputy do encourage it and I support it fully. I support it fully for all of government to give opportunities for Inuit and non-Inuit alike to further their skill sets as they work for a great company such as the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next line of questioning will be on the consumer affairs and consumer protection division. I would like to enquire if the department has ever

received any complaints over exorbitant interest rates charged by retailers in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the consumer is the one who signs off on those, agreeing to pay those exorbitant interest rates when they apply for credit or to pay off material. We do keep an eye on it and try to monitor the situation. I haven't heard of any document coming to us saying that they don't want to or that we should deal with high interest rates, but our consumers do sign off and agree when we do loans for vehicles and stuff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that the minister is aware of the issue. I would like to enquire if the minister has given direction to address the high interest rates and incorporating it into our *Consumer Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, in order to deal with that, we need to educate our consumers and educate... . There are many communities that still don't have borrowing institutions and are often tied in to what's at hand in the places that they can borrow from. Where we do get an opportunity or a complaint, we do seriously take it and we do deal with it.

My colleague will remember we wanted to lower the charges given to consumers

who cash government cheques, for example, so we do where we can. I think the biggest key here is to educate the consumer and try to work with them. If this grows into something, we definitely will be on top of it. I know our Corporate Division and Consumer Affairs Division are on top of it and monitoring it closely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move on and will be bringing that issue up again later. With regard to consumer protection, a major issue facing Nunavummiut is the difficulties in getting vehicle warranty work done. I would like to enquire if the minister is aware of that situation and if it falls under consumer affairs and protection. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having been one of the clients of purchasing equipment from the south and finding it needs to get warranty work and they tell you, "Well you have to bring it into our dealership," in communities where we don't have dealership, it makes it a little bit trying and long discussions on the telephone to try to make it work out. I have done this for myself and to many people who didn't have the means of debating the issue with suppliers of equipment until such time the warranty work needs to be done, we will monitor it and take a look at how we can maybe try to alleviate some of those warranty issues. It becomes very trying when you're trying to deal with equipment and your dealer is down south and you can't get your

equipment there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: what sort of assistance can the consumer protection division provide to individuals facing these warranty issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question and let me look into it. If there is anything our Consumer Affairs Division could do, maybe it would be wise to put out a pamphlet or a message out there to say that if you are in these situations, this is how we can help and stuff. At this point I really don't know if there is anything we can do. I'll get my department in that area to look into it and see if we can't come up with something. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate the minister's response, as I am sure everyone in Nunavut will appreciate any sort of assistance from the Government of Nunavut on this.

I would like to move on to a financial or budget-related question. The directorate historically has had a significant deficit of at least a million dollars in salaries. I would like to enquire why that is and we have actually seen a reduction in the salary budget in 2019-2020 and how that salary trend is expected to go down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you are aware, that is always a struggle. Maybe if I can, through you, Mr. Chairman, have Ms. Hourie respond to that in further detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

**Ms. Hourie:** Thank you. I thank the member for the question. The compensation and benefits actual expenditures versus the budget, there are two positions on paid educational leave right now in the law program, so their positions are backfilled. Procurement had a decrease in salaries as a result of the term logistics officer position expiring on March 31. Therefore that was moved from \$8,300,000 to the \$8,211,000. It's just staffing increases and decreases that we go through as a government here with vacancies and filling those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before I go on to the next name, I would like to welcome all the guests in the Legislative Assembly. Welcome to the House.

>> *Applause*

Next name, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many of us want to ask questions, so I will try to keep my questions short.

The first question I would like to ask is on capital planning. (interpretation ends) In the current fiscal year on page 212 of the business plan it mentions

improvements to the capital planning process. I know that the minister had mentioned that some of the things that have been done is improving the substantiation sheets that are provided to members and working on better planning in terms of the estimates that are put together.

I note that it isn't in the business plan this year as a priority in terms of the capital planning process. Is this something that is going to continue in this year or is it mostly completed already? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you for asking that question. We have to keep making improvements on how to spend less money. I know you have hunting experience. If you don't plan your hunting properly, you have to go back to town because you forgot something like your Coleman stove when you're out there in cold weather. In the same way, we have to plan in our department to make sure everything is set up right, to remove blockages, do proper planning, and make sure all the documents are put together correctly with the proper estimated cost of the project. It has improved in our department and we would like to keep making improvements in the coming years. Whenever we see an opportunity to improve, we want to make those improvements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My next question is about the human resource function. It's my understanding and we've had some discussion about this that there have been issues with, I'll say, inappropriate or maybe bullying. I don't want to get too specific there, but we will just say issues within some of the offices of CGS. Some have had more problems than others from my understanding.

In terms of ensuring a harassment-free workplace and whatnot, if the minister could just explain: what's the plan for this year going forward in terms of making sure that this doesn't impact the work being done within CGS? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I really appreciate that question, Mr. Chairman. Our department has gone through dealing with many issues, some of which could be put under bullying or harassment, and not to say it doesn't happen, but we've had people go into different communities in our departmental offices and look at the issue at hand. Sometimes it is bullying and sometimes it's just being told to do your job and you consider that bullying. In our department we try to instil a full investigation. We don't take any of them lightly. In one instance you might out actually it isn't bullying, but the next day it is. We don't take it lightly.

Our department is going to go through and has done training with supervisors and employees in the workplace to talk about working together and talk about

anti-bullying and how to detect and deal with those issues. We are trying to be on top of the game and we will continue to improve in that area, but we do have people going into departmental offices, workstations, and workplaces to go through orientations, safe workplace, and non-harassment workplace programs in our departments. Could we improve? Yes, we can. And will we? I most definitely hope so. We have been pushing to do that and I really appreciate Mr. Main for bringing it up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This definitely is not my last question. (interpretation ends) In terms of Nunavut Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti under your business plan on page 213 it mentions "...efficient and effective application of the NNI Act and Regulations." (interpretation) Based on my level of understanding, the purpose of the policy is to increase costs in some manner, which is understandable when you see the way it is set up.

(interpretation ends) If we look at the procurement function which is under this directorate, in terms of standardizing best practices, will there be any thought or work put towards working with NTI and maybe developing a process to differentiate between, how do I say it, a company that is on paper and a company that exists in the real world? Is this something that will be worked on in this fiscal year, understanding that CGS doesn't control NNI on their own; it's with NTI? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department just implements what's within the policy. In terms of the details of that, I don't want to misstep, but I think there is another department that deals with the NNI Policy and that would be Economic Development. We just follow that through the procurement process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand the minister's response, but CGS is the department of infrastructure. CGS is the department of procurement. Yes, setting up the NNI but applying it is largely happening within this department. When it says efficient and effective application of the NNI Act, what types of issues currently exist with the application of the NNI Act? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of implementing the Act through the procurement process, we've got to implement it the best we can given the guidelines and outline of the NNI Policy.

I hear where you're coming from and where you're headed. I most definitely don't have issue meeting with my colleagues on the issues that may arise, but sometimes it is a struggle to increase as much as possible the different amounts and/or guidelines of NNI. We try to adjust with them at every opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

If I can, through you, Mr. Chairman, have my deputy elaborate a bit more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Hourie.

**Ms. Hourie:** Thank you. I thank the member for the question. With regard to the NNI Policy, we can definitely meet with our colleagues in the other department to talk about it, but as the minister has indicated, we follow the NNI Policy with procurement. We understand as well the issues that that policy may bring, but again at this point it's our role to follow that policy through our procurement process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have no further questions on this one. I just would like to comment that I am concerned that we might be getting played as government in certain cases. Yes, there is a system and it is well. The road downstairs is paved with good intentions, right? It's just along this value for money discussion that needs to happen. I'm interested in seeing us make sure that we are getting value for money as a government. It's just a comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Okay, just to comment. You're all done, Mr. Main? Next name on the list, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the priorities in the (interpretation ends) business plan page 212 (interpretation) states, "Continue distribution of consumer

affairs public education materials throughout Nunavut.” This is a good ideal. Nonetheless, I have a concern about how online sales or purchases are overseen, as a clear outlined approach to purchases and sales hasn’t been introduced. Further, the legislation, specifically the (interpretation ends) *Consumer Protection Act*... . (interpretation) I will now switch over to English.

(interpretation ends) We have noted that there is an increasing prevalence of charitable and personal fundraising activities undertaken by organizations and individuals, but they are not necessarily operating under a clear regulatory framework. That leaves consumers at risk if the person in the cyber world starts to sell an item without specific instructions and if I buy something, I’m at risk. I have seen a lot of individuals missing items.

In 2017 the Legislative Assembly made amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act*, but it was mostly for the issue of cheque-cashing fees of government and other matters. My question is: is the department planning on introducing any other amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* during the life of this current Legislative Assembly and, if so, what specific amendments are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hear your concern, Ms. Towtongie, and to date we haven’t had any complaints to our department on those issues. I don’t have Facebook, so you hear about people talking about what they heard or read on Facebook,

but we’re not Facebook. If there are people who have complaints about those issues, they definitely haven’t been given to our department to date.

Having said that, in terms of a response to your question, if we have any upcoming changes to the Act, we have none at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In no time in my comments did I say Facebook media. I said about consumers buying in the cyber world. Let’s say I bought a Honda from Ontario with a warranty. That was what I was talking about. None of the skidoos or Hondas that we buy, we can’t ship them out and carry out the warranty policy on it. It affects a lot of Nunavummiut residents. I just wanted to clarify that out. It’s changing.

I’m talking about the *Consumer Protection Act* and we need to disseminate consumer affairs public information materials, which includes clarification of federal responsibilities regarding consumer protection. There is no clear regulatory framework within Nunavut. In saying that, is the department looking at areas where clarification is required? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the question. I believe I didn’t mention that you said anything about Facebook. I just said I don’t have Facebook or go into those public sites. I realize that.

In terms of the regulatory framework and protection of the consumers, we do have a Consumer Affairs Division if there are people who want to get information on it because we do have a website on it. We did, as recently as February 20, issue a PSA regarding unlicensed lotteries in Nunavut. It included contact information and organizational headquarters about qualifying for a licence and so on.

In terms of consumer protection, we monitor it and if there is a need to make changes or additions or deletions or changes to the Act, we definitely monitor it all the time and if we feel there is a need to do it, we could make additions to it. If you feel you would like to have input, I would most definitely like to hear from you and others out there in terms of what kind of changes and what kind of additions should and may be required for consumer protection for Nunavummiut that consume products from out of territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Towntongie.

**Ms. Towntongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my final question. I'll take your prerogative as Chair. I thank the minister for that because there is a need for the *Consumer Protection Act* now within Nunavut and amendments to it so it can become Nunavut-specific. We can only order through airlines.

In saying that, the department's draft 2019-2022 stated that it "worked with Municipalities to review the Integrated Community Sustainability Planning process and considered options to improve the integration of community infrastructure needs into the GN's

capital planning framework."

My understanding is both of the communities that I represent, Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet, under the integrated community sustainability planning process there are a number of priorities of what the community currently needs. With these improvements, have there been improvements into the community sustainability infrastructure needs with the municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Towntongie for the question. Yes, our community development sector has been working very hard with all the communities in Nunavut in trying to improve the community sustainability plans and try to find out how they could be more and better effective and better suited for the communities.

Since we've had those plans instituted, we continue to communicate through the municipalities and through the regional mayors' conferences and the Nunavut association conferences. We've held a number of workshops with mayors and SAOs alike to see how we can make those more effective and we continue to strive for that. We have our annual community tours. We go to every community in Nunavut and have in-depth discussions with each municipality to find out about their infrastructure, what requirements they have, and how we could achieve those needs.

Yes, we do strive to be better, but the

biggest key is to communicate with every municipality and address their needs directly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I have a question on the opening comments on the second page. The budget for Department of Community and Government Services has increased by \$4,047,000. I want to know why there is an increase. Are there more jobs in the smaller communities? I would like to understand that clearly, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to clarify this matter, Mr. Chairman. Back when the government first became operational, when office buildings were leased, the department renting the space paid the lease fees as well as the operational costs.

Now, all offices and leased office spaces are handled by a central department, namely, CGS. The funds were allocated on a regional basis where each department had regional offices and most offices were leased. Now that CGS is responsible for all rental, lease, or purchases, it has increased our efficiency.

As well, additional funds were added to these funds from the dissolution of the original HR department when HR was

segregated to each department to handle the departmental hires. Now, with the re-establishment of the HR department, we also have to set aside funds for their office rental costs.

These are the main reasons for the increases in the budget. Mr. Chairman, hopefully I came across clearly. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also appreciate the response from the minister. The main reason for the increase is office spaces. Has this led to increases in the number of employees in the communities, small or big? I just want to be very clear in my understanding, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, it's not to increase the number of employees. The office leases are now being paid for by the Department of Community and Government Services. The departments are not paying for their leases anymore. That's why you see an increase in the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I understand. I thought that was going in towards the increase of the employment. However, we know that it costs money to hire employees, Mr. Chairman. That's just a comment.

Moving on to something else on the

same page, Nunavummiut travel to communities to play sports and I am happy to hear that we're spending \$1.7 million to support Team Nunavut. In terms of the cost, my question is: have the participants increased or have they decreased in terms of numbers going to the Games, or has it remained mostly unchanged? I'm asking for clarification, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking that question. The monies for sport and recreation are very beneficial to the participants themselves. When athletes participate, they are usually selected prior to being sent to the Arctic Winter Games, which is very beneficial to our youth. It's good to see that. We have seen an increase in the number of athletes going to those games.

We will see approximately 300 participants, not only the athletes but also the entertainers, the drummers, the dancers performing at cultural events, volunteer coaches, youth ambassadors, and so on. In total we think there will be around 300 participants going to the Games in March next year in Yukon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for responding positively. I also want to completely understand this matter which is why I am asking about it. It is related to our athletes attending tournaments as some teams require athletic wear for the year or for several years prior to smaller communities

attending tournaments in the larger centres. Are they practising at this time or is there other logistical issues that may lead to delays? I want to clearly understand this subject, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recreation is an ongoing thing. When they first started participating, they started exercising. Some athletes exercised for about a week prior to the Games opening, but now they start practising two years before. That's including the athletes and the children under age who will become of age by the time the Games are on. They're now practising throughout the year. There's competition, they're getting together in the communities, and so on. We do give full support to the Games and it will be going on right up to March 2020. They're already practising. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for explaining the details. A common perspective people think of is that this is healthy for our young athletes who participate in tournaments for any kind of sport. This also applies to sports in our home communities when we prepare to go to other communities to play games or to regional centres, as sports and games are integral to healthy living and it generally allows youth to play sports instead of causing problems. This is just a commentary.

Let me move to another matter I want to ask about. This is related to an earlier

question on contracts. Some positions are hired through subcontracts in our communities if a major construction project is contracted out. It is rare to see any contractual opportunities or a majority Inuit labour force working on these construction projects. In order to open up more opportunities amongst our Inuit workforce and to increase the numbers locally, I wonder if any training funds are available to communities. Is this more of a future initiative to contract out employment? Mr. Chairman, I hope I was clear. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you're talking about the contracting forms, sometimes it's hard to figure out how to fill them out. There are a lot of details, such as how the work will be done, how much it will cost, how many people will be working, and so on that have to be included in the bid. If they need information or training on how to fill out those forms, our employees who work on contracts can provide assistance. We are open to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that response. In terms of the building infrastructure that comes through the ship supply, sometimes it's quite hard when the ships try to get into the communities. How can it be fixed so that they can come in at an earlier time, either in the winter or spring? When will the construction contracts be advertised? I'm asking for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I am correct, the housing corporation sends out the RFPs. That question should be posed to them, if I'm not mistaken, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The housing corporation minister is probably listening to the proceedings, so I'll ask that question to him sometime. That's just a comment.

Let me move to another subject which I want to ask about. You can see the sculptures in front of us that we can observe, as they are wonderfully made. In our communities many residents have no employment prospects. Are any strategies or plans being developed by our government to provide more employment opportunities for our residents? Hopefully I was clear, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many employment opportunities for Inuit within Nunavut and those opportunities are growing. We are seeing more opportunities within Nunavut as several mines are operating and new businesses are being created. The government supports all economic development, as all members support the creation of new positions for Inuit.

However, within Community and Government Services, we work with

Nunavut organizations to provide services through the (interpretation ends) Municipal Training Organization. (interpretation) They can provide the training for heavy equipment operators, accountants, and hamlet administrative staff. We support job creation, but with respect to training and providing employment opportunities within government, that is not part of our mandate. It is handled by another department. I thank him for his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his officials.

For my first question, your department and the Department of Finance are working together. In your business plan on page 212, third bullet, it says that your department is working with the Department of Finance on the capital planning process. What kind of work are you doing on the capital planning process? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we started the sitting, we recognized that there's a need to focus on capital planning, but sometimes we lose focus when we don't look at the whole picture or when it's too late, we might find that if we had planned it another way, it could have been a cost-saving measure or it would have proceeded more smoothly. Sometimes that's overlooked.

In collaboration with the Department of Finance, we're looking at a five-year capital planning process, what can be improved, which areas are more urgent, and which areas can be worked on at the same time so that we're more efficient and prepared. When those things are run better, cost-saving measures are noticeable. It's still in the works and we envision improvements being made in the coming months and years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for the response. I also appreciate the minister and his staff for dealing with the fire that occurred in Baker Lake. The response was very good. It's a major capital issue for Baker Lake. In terms of planning forward, this affected the emergency issue and we saved ourselves from a real hard time there.

Now to turn to the capital planning process, I know the minister understands the process. Now, within this month the materials will need to be ordered shortly to be booked on the scow barge, as logistical planning requires that purchases be done in advance. Materials need to be ordered, purchased, the different capital items prepared for shipping, and some equipment needs to be put together.

The question I wish to ask relates to the Minister of Finance and yourself collaborating on the plans. Yes, we MLAs approve the funding requests. I am asking now about unforeseen or emergency situations and how these unplanned events impact our capital

planning process. Has this ever been contemplated and do you have future plans in this regard? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank you for asking that question. Let me restate that I am proud of the patience of the people of Baker Lake and they understood right away how severe the situation was. I am proud of the people of Baker Lake. I commend their emergency response team. Even though it was really cold, they went forward to fight the fire. I thank the efforts of the firefighters. It was very good and worthy to be commended. I also want to express our appreciation to firefighters across the territory.

With the requirement to be prepared and to be ready for emergency situations, the government is there to support in any way. If a school were to catch on fire and using the planning done in Baker Lake, for example, the hamlet uses its own services and equipment. These facilities are insured via NAMIX insurance and it covers all replaceable items within the facility, such as sewage tanks or other needs.

They are never the same, but even though they are different, our department is mandated to assist communities and we try to assist immediately when we are able to assist, much like what happened in Baker Lake. We look at ways to provide assistance as immediate help allows the community to preserve what they have left. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much. I want to ask another question with respect to that matter. I am unsure of the proper Inuktitut term, so I will say it in English. (interpretation ends) The intercommunity sustainability plan (interpretation) needs to be revised due to the fire at the main garage in Baker Lake.

With that in mind, how does CGS adapt their plans to accommodate this within the capital planning process? How will the Hamlet of Baker Lake be engaged in this process? Yes, in some ways it is rather urgent to resolve these challenges, albeit equipment has continued to be replaced. Nonetheless, we have to look at the future impacts and how best to engage the hamlet in coming up with options.

Has the department considered ways to provide further assistance, perhaps by meeting with the hamlet council in Baker Lake on an adapted capital item process on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process you have outlined is a real process that is used in these cases, and it is being utilized in Baker Lake as the emergency hasn't been lifted yet. As a matter of fact, the fire marshal is still investigating the cause of the fire.

Further, not all the equipment was only sewage trucks, as some front-end loaders were in there, along with some snow

removal equipment, and this included the garage itself. This was a major loss for the community of Baker Lake and it will impact the community in the immediate near term as well as long term, not just tomorrow.

Now, with that being the case, the Hamlet of Baker Lake, the SAO, and the mayor and council will be included in the formation of the new plans as they search for ways to resolve their challenges. This is a critically important matter, as the challenges are overwhelming or above their heads, so we commit to working with the community to meet their needs. All of the issues related to the cause of the fire and the costs to replace all of the equipment, in dealing with the insurers, all of these fine details will need to be rooted out before we can make final decisions about our options and alternatives.

I envision, perhaps in the spring or summer season, I will be able to travel to Baker Lake to see firsthand the challenges they face and to meet with them face to face with the councillors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to move to another matter that I want to ask you about within the documentation provided. It states here that your department will work towards increasing Inuit employment. However, I understand that most Inuit can't just be hired off the street to undertake these positions. It also depends on the person's abilities to fulfill their responsibilities and that is how most employees are

hired.

Now, in looking at that matter, the Department of Community and Government Services has different offices in the regions and in looking long term to our future, what is your department contemplating as plans here? As an example, to look at work this year, CGS has offices in Baker Lake. Will you create more two or one positions specific to Inuit in this area?

To use the example of the official to your left, his office is located in Baker Lake. Nonetheless, I was thinking along these lines. In looking at his capabilities, he could train an Inuk intern to develop their skills and long-term plans towards that. This is just an example off the top of my head. People can gain skills as nobody stays at the same level forever, but what are your future plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the question from my colleague from Baker Lake. Inuit employment within government is important. Actually it is of importance to us all here. We also know we have to increase the number of Inuit workers within my department. With that being the situation, we are trying different things to try to increase the number of Inuit in our workforce.

To use this example, if we know an employee may be leaving or retiring or moving in a few years, it would allow us to pick an Inuk who would require minimal training. We could then train them for six months or three months, the amount would depend, even up to a two-

year period, to commence the training so that when the employee leaves or retires, then the Inuk would be able to step into that position and handle the duties.

With these factors, there are also training opportunities within our government. We have the Sivuliqtiksat program and others that can be used to train workers to fulfill their duties and to be trained in upper management. There are a couple of avenues we can try to provide more training for Inuit employees. I believe your statement that there needs to be more Inuit workers, especially in my department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're on Community and Government Services. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$12,325,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Local Government Services. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, good morning. Mr. Chairman, my questions are going to be based on page 216 of the business plan when you talk about mobile equipment block funding. This "Provides annual core funding to assist communities in mobile equipment lifecycle planning, procurement and maintenance. This program provides communities with annual funding so that communities can determine the equipment required and maintained to a high standard."

I think this program was introduced in 2008 or 2009 and I think our current minister was the minister of the day. My first question is: when was the last time

this program received an increase in funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague is correct. We sat in this very room. I was sitting here and you were sitting where you are, Mr. Chairman, when we introduced this and it was very well received at the time. Mr. Chairman, since then the budget has been maintained. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I stated, this was introduced ten years ago. The cost of the equipment and whatnot is going up every day in our communities. By looking at your business plan, you don't anticipate giving an increase for the next several years. Can the minister update us today on when this funding will be increased? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate your line of questioning on this.

Mr. Chairman, I recall and I think my colleague will recall that we were going to do this with this amount of funding that's currently before us over a four-year plan, I believe, at the time and review its success at that time. We were going to make increases and maybe decreases where it is called for. Unfortunately that fell through the cracks and it had just been maintained.

I anticipate that in the next short while,

within the next year or two, we will be taking a hard look at this to see if it's actually even helping and take some measurements in terms of how we could make it more effective. It has helped a lot. I think it gave municipalities an opportunity to purchase equipment at their own time and what they wanted instead of waiting annually for the Assembly to approve a grader for a community or a loader to another community. This has speeded up that process.

One of the things we're looking at is maybe instituting a way of increasing your funds by things such as length of roads in your community, amount of repairs that need to be done in the community, population size, and so on and so forth, and create some kind of a formula so that it does better suit those communities that go through more mobile equipment than others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When this program was introduced, I did and I still do agree with this type of program where you give the municipalities the money and they can spend it the best way they see fit, but I can only state what I have stated in this House before. You give them this money and it works in a perfect world if the community already had up-to-date equipment. I can only use my community as an example. When this was introduced, we were operating with equipment that was 25 to 30 years old. We were already "behind the eight ball" when it comes to having up-to-date equipment.

How does your department work with the municipalities to ensure they have the adequate equipment in our communities to provide the functions that they do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** We try our best, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Mr. Rumbolt. It becomes very challenging when you have a budget that can't quite meet the needs of all communities and all their shortfalls.

I think Sanikiluaq was one of the communities that had the equipment that was 20 and 30 years old. To some degree it sped that process up. Did it solve all of the problems? No, it didn't. We continue to try to work with municipalities to get creative ways to update their old mobile equipment. At this time we're trying to figure out how we can increase the funds or make it easier for communities to get newer mobile equipment where necessary.

In some communities this is working great because they don't have as much road wear and as much equipment wear on snow removal or gravel removal and stuff like that, but in some communities it becomes very difficult and equipment wears very quickly. In that it also starts to affect your mobile equipment shelters. I know we can on for days about this issue, but we are trying to work with the communities to rectify this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree more that we need more concentration in some

communities. Some communities, I think, have adequate funding and communities like mine are inadequate. I'll give you another example and I made it public last year where our community was down to a dozer to plow roads. I'm happy to say that we're up a little bit from that now. We now have a loader and a half and a dozer. We still have equipment that's down and in cases we have no equipment.

I think it was a year or two ago when the airports decided that we were no longer allowed to use the graders in our community, so now our community is in need of a grader. As the minister stated, once you get this equipment, you need a place to put it. Right now there is no storage room. The infrastructure needs in my community are great.

Again I'll ask: how are you working with the community to ensure that we have the adequate not only equipment but infrastructure to house the equipment in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had commented earlier to a question on the infrastructure advisory committee and we do visit every community in Nunavut annually and we try to work with the municipality in trying to deal with infrastructure shortfalls, Mr. Chairman. It is a real trying time for that stuff, I couldn't agree with my colleague more, and it is frustrating when you're a municipality, having been a mayor on a number of occasions in Rankin Inlet. It gets very frustrating when you have roads to deal with and snow removal, and in

communities like Sanikiluaq where you have to have sewage pump-out and water delivery and you have no roads to get to them. It just starts to create a domino effect.

Mr. Chairman, we work with the municipality. Our staff works with the SAO and the municipality to try to find some solutions on dealing with it. Where we can, we try to help out in terms of finding equipment or materials to replace broken parts on heavy equipment and so on, but through our visits to communities, we're working on that. I appreciate my colleague's frustration on this, but we are trying to find a solution to it and we will continue to try to find a solution, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first question I have is about sport and recreation, although I'm not very knowledgeable about that. I used to play basketball when I was much younger, but that's about all the sporting I know.

Now, I wanted further clarification here, as it is written that \$4.3 million is allocated for 2019-2020 as part of the proposal submitted. It says it is for seven different (interpretation ends) funding programs (interpretation) and it was an 11.4 percent increase. Firstly, it has increased in 2018-19 from the previous year. What is the substantiation for that increase? I think I have a good suspicion as to what it entails, but what is the exact reason for that increase of 11.4 percent in 2018-19? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. The increase in the grants and contributions is primarily for our youth to attend sports tournaments or games, and this is the transportation cost that led to this increase to pay for transportation costs to the regional Arctic Winter Games trials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another matter I wish to request further information is something that seems obvious, as many of our young athletes travel to the regional trials, along with their coaches, assistants, and chaperones. I also understood when you mentioned some of these categories. It also includes cultural performers and not just athletes' transportation costs. What about parents? I just want some clarification, as some parents can attend their child's tournaments. How is this set up? Do they also pay for relatives to attend their games? How exactly is that set up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Quassa...Kusugak, sorry.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm also Minister Quassa.

>> *Laughter*

Sporting events are provided for along with their chaperones, but if the parents want to go along, they have to pay their own way. However, some coaches are parents and they go and help with the activities. If you want to go and just watch, like you and me, if our grandchildren are going to compete and

we want to go watch, then we would have to pay our own way there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It indicates here that the (interpretation ends) Sport and Recreation Grants and Contributions Policy (interpretation) was going to be updated, and we have been expecting it to be updated. I don't believe we have it yet and the previous policy expired on March 31, 2017. What is the status of your department's work to develop a new policy that was going to be created? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policy you're speaking of has been approved. It was approved by my colleagues in November. Right now groups that request for that funding are being spoken to and informed of what it is. We envision that it will come into effect on April 1. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will be in effect on April 1. Some of us will want to see what it actually looks like. Would you be able to table it for us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is totally available at this time. I do regret that it isn't available here, although it is

viewable online if you go to the CGS website and click on the Sport and Recreation Branch. The data should be readily available there, but it hasn't been entered yet. If my colleagues wish to see a copy, it is possible. It is available in Inuktitut, English, French, and Inuinnaqtun. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for helping us to understand that. Let me move on to something else about the search and rescue parties under the (interpretation ends) emergency management office (interpretation) that works with local SAR groups. Now, you stated earlier that as an example, new initiatives were to be introduced. Should we anticipate initiatives using new funding? Do you have any news or new initiatives for training local SAR groups? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Something new that we will see is a training program for local search and rescue groups. There is a new training program that can be given to search and rescue groups on grid searches and proper methodology. It will be interesting to observe that this coming winter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, in our community, actually in all communities and not just in our community, search and rescue groups conduct extensive searches

sometimes using their own equipment as most SAR workers use their own equipment. Further, the SAR groups in all communities are continually requesting funding assistance or equipment to conduct searches.

Apparently certain large boats were made available for searches, perhaps through the RCMP, as they used to have vessels for their usage. It was possible to hear that certain equipment was available to assist the local SAR groups, some of whom purchased marine vessels to conduct searches.

With that mentioned, does the department help fund the purchases of equipment? Can the minister make these funds available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recall that last summer the Coast Guard Auxiliary, which is not a part of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, came up to Rankin Inlet to train local people to deal with marine rescue in Canada. They went to Rankin Inlet, where they brought up a vessel to be used for conducting searches in emergencies. This training program was quite successful and we expect it to be successful again next year.

The federal government said that they can be requested for funding for marine vessels for summer SAR searches in the communities. It was good to hear that announcement as this is completely separate from the programs we offer and this is funded through the Coast Guard.

However, it's unfortunate that the Government of Nunavut doesn't have any capital purchasing funds for SAR groups for search vessels, vehicles, snowmobiles, or outboard motors. We have no funds or equipment available, and I don't anticipate this program receiving any additional funds towards this. I do know that surplus government assets can sometimes be donated to SAR groups upon request, but we have no specific capital funding for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, SAR searches will not disappear anytime soon as it will continue to be required in Nunavut, especially with climate change said to be occurring. It is obvious that SAR searches and emergency rescues will not go away. The government should be more proactive in this regard, as they need to be aware of the fact that SAR groups require further assistance.

As an example, some hunters use their own equipment to conduct searches and their machine may break down. They have to use discretionary funds to pay for the replacement part to repair their machines, all the while the person is a SAR technician. Do you have equipment replacement funds specific to small equipment repairs? Can hunters receive some compensation for repair costs when suffering breakdowns during SAR events? Are there any assistance funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed we

would be best served if we had a small equipment purchasing fund, but based on my understanding of the system, there is a small pot of funds specific for parts replacement for SAR technicians using their own equipment. It is usually capped and can't be used for major purchases, although I don't know the extent of the funding levels. Once I find out the amount, I will pass it on to my colleague. I do know it is for parts only and not entire engine replacement costs. I will get back to you on this, Mr. Quassa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It made me smile a little. At a minimum, if you could provide (interpretation ends) spark plugs, (interpretation) as we call them *ingniit*. I think it should include other parts.

Mr. Chairman, on this last item, it is just a comment and my last statement, however, is on the organization called the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee. (interpretation) I am quite familiar with this committee. I have served as a mayor in the past and participated in trying to identify priorities with councillors. They prepare their priorities and submit it to the government. We then get a completely different list sent back, many times without our prioritized equipment included. We would also not even be allocated the machine we needed most.

The way this is set up, obviously... . Well, the minister mentioned that CGS is involved with it, but when we talk about our hamlets, CGS should be working collaboratively with our

communities. They have to know the local priorities for equipment, as many of us here in this House have sat as councillors in our communities. The prioritized equipment the hamlet wants isn't included and we receive equipment picked by CGS arbitrarily. This seems completely opposite of how the department should be working with the hamlets. The community is requested to submit their priorities for equipment and when they submit their priorities, the equipment they want isn't even ordered. This is becoming too top-heavy as we know cases where equipment not prioritized was sent.

I believe this requires further assessment by management to ensure that the prioritized list prepared by the communities is followed properly so that the community receives the equipment it needs. This is more a comment, as I believe this has to be improved, although I do know that some mayors sit on that committee. I wonder how we can fix this and I believe it has to be considered in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree with you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, I still have five names on my list for this branch. Recognizing the time, we will now break for lunch and we will report back at 1:30 p.m. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 12:00 and resumed at 13:30*

**Chairman:** Good afternoon, Inuit and

colleagues. We're at Local Government Services. My next name on the list, Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated and there were some questions on it, but in the opening comments it indicated that there were 260 search and rescues and 69 were using the SPOT devices. I'm sure some of them weren't using these SPOT devices or something. There are going to be more search and rescue parties that would have to be sent out due to climate change and the uncertainty of what the conditions are going to be like. We can't plan ahead quite as much as we used to because the weather changes more frequently. With that, my colleague had some questions about it.

I would like to ask about this matter. Nunavut's *Emergency Measures Act* that's currently in force was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2007. Sections 5 to 9 of the legislation provide for the preparation of emergency management programs. However, those sections of the legislation have not yet been brought into force. What's the current status on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. If the legislation was brought into force, we would be breaking that legal requirement. There are a number of staggered enactment dates and there are plans that require completion. To use this example, all Nunavut communities are required to have an emergency preparedness plan completed, as the requirement is for all

communities to have one. At this time there are still two communities that haven't submitted their plans, but we are working with them to complete and submit their plans. Once this is completed, we will obviously be able to move forward.

We are also going to be getting a position that will be in charge of the legislation. This individual will be responsible for sections 5 to 9 of the Act, which provide for the preparation of emergency management plans.

I apologize; there are three communities that haven't completed their emergency management plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. The minister touched on it, but I would like to ask another question. The minister indicated how many municipalities have not finalized and submitted their emergency management plans. Can the minister indicate which communities haven't completed those plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The three communities that have not finalized and submitted their emergency management plans are Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung, and Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. My next name on the list, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many questions, but the first line of questioning is going to be regarding the technical professional studies bursaries program. I notice that the budget for the line item remains at \$80,000. I would like to enquire if this amount has ever seen an increase or if the actual usage or applications for this program has seen an increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The technical professional studies bursary is an application-based program, Mr. Chairman. In 2018 we approved 28 scholarship grants totalling \$81,500, and it stayed in that amount, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear that 28 applicants received this bursary last year, but out of curiosity, have applicants ever been denied? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, it is a competitive process. Based on the requirements, eligibility, course of study, and a few other factors, it is a competitive process, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I would like to ask is: have any applicants been denied due to a lack of funds being available? Have applicants ever been denied because

there was no funding available left in the \$80,000 fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Depending on the kind of funding that is applied for, it's always available. We approve as many as we can up to the amount allocated. Yes, through that process, it's quite obvious that we would have on occasion some people who did not get a bursary because the funding has been capped. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the minister has recognized that the funding is not enough, what I'm trying to get at is, if there is not enough funding to meet the demand of these students, would the minister recognize the need to increase this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends. If there are enough students applying for the professional program studies and stuff, there might be occasion where there needs to be more, but as of now, it is going through this process and we are dealing with what we have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister has indicated, student applicants have been denied due

to a lack of funding available. I would highly recommend that the minister consider increasing this budget in years going forward.

I'll move on to my next topic and that's search and rescue. I was curious: how much is being spent on an annual basis conducting search and rescue efforts in our territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will just bear with me for a moment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your patience. We have an agreement with communities where we allocate \$10,000 per community to help with local searches, Mr. Chairman. That doesn't include the other searches that have to be done where there are aerial searches and other searches that have to be on top of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Arctic UAV has made tremendous progress in recent years in adapting unmanned aerial vehicle technology to be applied in the Arctic. Does the minister foresee the benefits of using unmanned aerial vehicle technology in search and rescue in our territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Our department has been doing a lot of studies and research and looking into the

benefits of using drones. If it's mapping, if it's doing many things, I think, in our department we have such a wide net of areas where we could use it. Like anything else, we need to study the pros and cons of it.

For example, I was watching a program a couple of weeks ago about these people who are studying the way of using drones as a tool to detect polar bears that are getting too close to the community of Arviat. I don't know if my other colleague saw it also. It has its benefits, but with the temperatures outside, with the extreme temperatures, the battery life on such things expires very quickly. They get technical problems. I think, right now, we're taking a look at how we can use them and how they could be beneficial.

Our department is always looking at ways of how we can be more effective and how we could find those that need to be found as quickly as possible. If the drone is the way to go in the future, the department is definitely looking at the pros of going that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, minister. This category of search and rescue is a critically important aspect of our local management and members will speak out on this issue.

Firstly, to return to what you alluded to in your opening comments, you stated there were 216 searches conducted. Now, can the minister elaborate what percentage of that total amount of 216

searches required aircraft assistance?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In total by plane, one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for indicating that. I know where that was.

I'll move on to something else. There were spotter training programs for aerial searches. Has Emergency Measures looked at having these aircraft made available to depart from Nunavut instead of outside the territory? Have you considered having Nunavut-based aircraft prepared to go out at a moment's notice? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you referring to the Armed Forces aircraft, specifically the Hercules? If you are talking about the Hercules aircraft, we don't have them available in the territory. That would not be possible. However, whenever a search is required in an emergency, sometimes an aircraft is available. When aircraft are available in Nunavut, we try to use them as we consider it an emergency search. There is no office for the National Search and Rescue Secretariat in Nunavut. We are not the only territory that require search and rescue operations. We have to request aircraft from that body if we want to use their aircraft for search and rescues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much does it usually cost to request an aircraft for search and rescue? How much does it cost to search by aircraft? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why it's difficult to answer that question, even though I wish to respond to it, is due to the differences that are included as higher costs for the aircraft, the size of the aircraft, the distance from the home base, and the length of time to conduct searches are all factors that increase the amount of funding. It is never the same, but it's obvious that the amounts are fairly large, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask this question while we're in this area. Maybe I can start by saying...I will go to channel 2.

(interpretation ends) On February 29, 2016 the minister of the day stated in the Legislative Assembly that "The Territorial Emergency Plan, along with the Department of Community and Government Services emergency plans, has been completed and will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly this year." However, as of January 1, 2019, the Territorial Emergency Plan had not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. When will the Territorial Emergency

Plan be ready to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't answer for the previous government and I apologize, but I can tell the member that we are working on the plan and we should be able to table it this fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it would be interesting to see that.

Let me move on to something else other than search and rescue. One of my constituency communities of Amittuq has been concerned and they are scared of this garage in Igloolik. I think you are aware of it. It's so old. It has a cement floor and the water truck and bulldozers are stored there. The cement floor moves and the side of the building shifts due to being so old. I have heard that the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission wants that building closed.

Can you expedite the process to have the garage fixed? Is there any plan for that? Do you consider this a priority? Does the government consider this a priority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Yes, that facility you mentioned was inspected by our staff. They conducted some drilling tests to

determine the stability of the foundation, what material it was made from, whether it created any hazardous situations, whether it can be fixed or if it is irreparable. Currently we plan to review the report with the hamlet council in the coming months and how we can deal with this challenge as we move forward. The initial report stated it may not be repairable, so we will investigate that. Further, we consulted the mayor just last week about the work that was undertaken, as our staff discussed that with the mayor to try to develop options. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Your question was more geared towards capital, but I'm just advising you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies and I appreciate your response. This is indeed dangerous.

I'll move to another digression path and I want to turn to your opening comments. It was on page 2 and I am referencing the Inuktitut version. Let me try to read the syllabics. At the very bottom it states this language, (interpretation ends) 1, 2, 3, third paragraph... (interpretation) I'm so quick to switch to English.

>> *Laughter*

It states, "This included details on the proposed Katittuq Nunavut project..." This part where it refers to Nunavut, is that for the whole territory or the total of one community? Is your statement trying to speak to the whole budget for Nunavut or the entire community? What is it trying to say? Is it talking about one community or many communities? That

will be my final question. Can you explain that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Katittuq Nunavut project (interpretation) is just one entity and I didn't name it Katittuq, whether they're together or combining something. It just states that it's called (interpretation ends) Katittuq Nunavut project, (interpretation) Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan at the bottom of page 217, I saw this on the priorities for the coming year, 2019-2020, and the minister is aware and those of us who live in Rankin Inlet are quite aware that we get water delivery through the utilidor system and the utilidor system pipes are very old. They are around 40 years old and the water turns brown. The minister is quite aware that sometimes the water is undrinkable. I see here that they will "Develop Drinking Water Strategy and Action Plan..." What I would like to understand today is if any action plans have been developed for potable water. Further, with respect to drinking water, what strategy has been developed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you, Ms. Towtongie, for asking that

question. Indeed, as per my statement last week, every resident of Nunavut has the right to fresh potable water.

Although Nunavut has some of the best quality freshwater sources in the whole world, we still run into cases where no drinkable water is available and this is due to many variable factors.

Furthermore, when speaking of this right to fresh potable water, we have federal legislation outlining Canadian citizen rights to fresh water. We have to adhere to these pieces of federal legislation when dealing with fresh water management decisions for every community that has a freshwater source. These are known as the (interpretation ends) drinking water regulations, (interpretation) as they are called.

These are the reasons why to date, as we start this new calendar year, we are now dealing with wanting to develop a water strategy for potable water and whether we are required to conduct further work. Every community is included in this strategy where we will review all the variable factors. For example, how do we fix it in Rankin Inlet? We have started drafting this strategy.

As you know, the regulations for drinking water require that water sources are properly planning, including water delivery access, and we are looking at that. As well, in other communities we are looking to improve water access, for example, in Igloolik, Sanikiluaq, and every other community challenged this way. This will impact our communities in working to meet this right to fresh potable water and how to properly adhere to federal legislation that is applicable to us here, that is, to provide fresh drinking water. What kind of

impact will this have on our local water management service providers?

If we can benefit from these federal regulations in terms of dealing with local challenges we already face here with water quality, these are the types of details we are looking at to add to our water management systems and to ensure that we have an entity that is able to enact changes so that every community has access to fresh drinking water here in Nunavut. What will be our system, how will we operate it, and how shall we deal with our immense challenges? It can include everything within these parameters, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the adequate response. Now, the Department of Environment introduced a \$150,000 fund last year for a new water management plan. I would like to know about that from CGS and the Department of Environment. Are they working together to get a drinking water strategy? Are the two departments working on this plan? That's what I would like to clearly understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut government is going to be working with the Department of Environment, the Nunavut Water Board, the federal government, and the Nunavut Planning Commission. We want to work well together with those different groups on water management in Nunavut. That's

what you're talking about. We will be working with those groups on water management in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. Now, I saw this earlier, but I don't know how to say it in Inuktitut. It's about money that was bundled for water purposes for different communities. Looking at that, I expect that Rankin Inlet should be one of the communities that will be bundled or prioritized. My question to the minister is: will the minister provide us regular members with a copy of the drinking water strategy once it's completed? I would like to see it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What Ms. Towtongie is asking about, the bundle 1, bundle 2, and bundle 3, I know that we have given the information to regular members and we have spoken to them on what bundles 1, 2, and 3 mean. If that's what the member is asking about, we have handed them out already, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my final question. I understand we as regular MLAs receive the bundles, so forgive me if I made him misunderstand.

Will he commit to tabling a copy of the water strategy in the Legislative

Assembly, drinking water and action plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I'm sorry if I misunderstood you. Yes, as soon as it's done or in the process, I have no problem sharing the information. As soon as it's available, I will forward it to all members. I'll gladly forward that so we can be informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on my list, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question, I would like to go back to what my colleague was asking about in regard to sport and recreation. I just want to get a better idea. You have monies that are for grants and contributions. I'm wondering: how are they distributed? How do you decide how much hockey gets versus soccer versus badminton and which communities? I just want to get a better understanding of how that whole process works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. The gentleman to my left is an expert in that field and I would appreciate it, Mr. Chairman, if you could let Mr. Seeley respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The Sport and Recreation Grants and

Contributions Program is primarily administered by an application process. Eligibility includes municipal corporations and non-profit organizations with a mandate to promote and develop sport, physical activity, and recreation opportunities in the territory.

The decision on the actual funding levels for a sport organization specifically to the member's question on comparing two different sport organizations, the scope of the organization's operations are considered as well as the size and the distribution of the membership. For that example, two organizations, both with a hundred members but one with two communities represented would receive proportionately less than an organization with the same membership distributed across ten different communities because of the increased travel costs that would be experienced by the latter.

With the development of this year's renewed sport and recreation contribution policy, that table of what the funding distribution will look like moving forward has been shared with the various sport organizations and recreation organizations with a territorial mandate over the last 18 months to help them prepare for this transition to the new sport funding allocation system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just to be mindful of our interpreters. Today being Friday, you could come up for air once in a while. It's good.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new sporting formula you were saying, can you explain that to me? I'm sorry. I'm just curious of what changes are going to be made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Mr. Seeley respond to that question and maybe quite a bit slower, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The distribution of the funding through the sport and recreation grants program considers the overall size of the organization as well as the complexity of its programming. A very large organization like, for example, soccer would have many members and deliver a full suite of programs and services to that entire membership base. A smaller organization, for example, table tennis with a smaller membership base would receive proportionately less funding based on their lower travel cost demands.

The formula that is used or the format that is used to break down that funding distribution was based on an audit of our expenditures per sport, per program type, per context of participation for each of the different program types over the last three to four years. The new formula is meant to stabilize the funding to the organizations to support forward planning within their resource envelope and allow them to plan within the resources more effectively.

We have retained an application-based

portion of the programming to allow for supplemental funding to organizations that are taking on new initiatives or initiatives that just require additional support to meet their program plans. The first rollout for this will be April 1 to all the municipalities as well as to the non-profits.

I hope I have answered that distribution mechanism piece a little better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. These are all proposal-based applications.

Now, I think all of us have heard of some concerns for things like the Arctic Winter Games participation that if you are from, let's say, the community of Grise Fiord where it costs a lot more than maybe coming from Iqaluit, the membership or maybe at times the whole team cannot come because of the cost. Is this true? Is this something that you face as a department in having to make decisions over matters like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question, Mr. Chairman. Those decisions in terms of, for example, Grise Fiord soccer team or soccer player, if they don't have enough for a team, whether they can send one or two or three or four, whatever many players to participate, let's say, in the Arctic Winter Games regionals or territorials, that decision is usually left not to CG&S but to the sporting

organization. They make those calls, not our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I was misunderstood. I didn't say it clearly enough and I do apologize. What I was trying to say is, let's say, you have a team in Grise Fiord and there are ten members on the team, but due to the cost of sending all of those members, they have to or maybe they are told that they can only send six members. Has this been the case? Have you seen this happen? Is this something in reality that you've had to deal with as a department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's for that reason that you see in the budget where we have the additional grant funding for this year is to allow all the teams that want to participate to participate in the Arctic Winter Games trials. I'm not aware of any where the team actually was not allowed to participate and being told they couldn't by a sporting organization, but what this additional grant is for is to allow participation in the Arctic Winter Games at all levels. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do want to ask other things, but one more question on this area and, that is, if you look at a situation like what I was just saying, it could be Kugluktuk where they have a long ways

to go where places are more expensive. Would you give priority under this new grant thing? Would you give priority to communities like that have more challenges in getting their players to a certain event? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what is important to repeat is that the sport organizations make those calls and decisions. We don't, as a department, make those decisions for them. We have very active and very good sport organizations in all sports, I can say, and they make those decisions and we support them. It's encouraged that all of those who want to participate in sport do. Whether they have a full team or not, we encourage full participation. The sport organizations are the ones who make those calls and if they come to us for support, we give them as much support as we can in terms of trying to find them additional funding or earmarking additional funding as we're doing this year. We give them full support. We have the mindset of every child or youth who wants to participate in sports should be able to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very good to hear. I hope all communities are tuning in to this.

I would like to talk about something else that is a little bit, I think, controversial and that is about lottery licences. I have seen your picture on Facebook representing the Department of

Community and Government Services telling people that if you're going to have any kind of lotteries, you're going to need a licence. We have all seen that there are a lot of lotteries going on and people are resorting to that because they just don't have the money to cover some of these necessities that need to be covered.

From what I see in the various media outlets like Facebook, people really want to be left alone. They want to be able to do their own fundraising because they don't have any other means of covering, let's say, a burial or flying home a loved one to be buried here or families being able to attend the burial. A lot of these are all about that. From what I hear, people just want the government to back off when it comes to these kinds of things. Even in our own building we have people who are selling Chase the Ace tickets that work here.

I'm wondering: as a department, where are you going with this? Is this something that you're really going to be pushing and, if so, how are you going to provide oversight to something like this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you kind of answered your own question.

I think we all understand the difficulties of some of these events that happen. They are usually not for themselves but trying to support somebody in terms of burials. You know how expensive it is to try to bury somebody here or to bring a loved one to your community from Lord knows where or trying to fundraise for a

family who is trying to go see a loved one before they pass. We could go on and on. On the other side there are also some who just want to raise money.

We have our laws. We have our policies, procedures, and rules in terms of having to have lottery licences. If there are individuals out there who have a complaint, they are more than welcome. I'll give them a number to contact Consumer Affairs and to date we haven't had any that I'm aware of, of complaints. If we do get complaints, then we would investigate them. Also, if they feel conducting a lottery event without a licence is a criminal code offence and if they want to pursue with the RCMP, that's their prerogative, Mr. Chairman. We don't police it, but the laws are there and there are avenues for those who feel they need to put in a complaint, they can contact our consumer affairs office or the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I understand is this: there are rules. If you're going to have a loonie toonie to fundraise for a burial, under the law you're not supposed to do that, but if nobody complains, then nothing is really going to happen. It's only if there is somebody who complains about a person doing this. Is that the only way you can police it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately we don't have very many people in our Consumer Affairs Division. We don't have people

in our communities who are going to go out and monitor if people have licences to do those things that Ms. Angnakak is talking about. It's like anything else. If you feel the law is being broken and you want to complain about it, then there are avenues to do that. If you feel that's the way to go, we *per se* don't have a lottery licence law breaking people who monitor that. No, we don't have that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you. Do individuals conducting a 50-50 draw require a licence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that if you are fundraising, you require a lottery licence of some sort, if it is through the Consumer Affairs or through your municipal office, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within almost all of our offices we do 50-50 draws. That's how offices fundraise for coffee, for birthdays. Is everybody breaking the law? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are all kinds of different not-for-profit or charitable organizations out there. I think the idea behind these licences is to ensure that people who are trying to fundraise an

exorbitant amount of money to send their hockey team on to hockey schools or volleyball teams on, we are talking about \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000 and stuff like that. Charitable organizations need to apply for their licensing and to continue to be charitable.

I really don't know where I would fit the coffee fund, if they too need a licence. I really don't know how to answer that and I would need to get legal advice on that particular detail of question. If we are going to go and tell people we are going to have RCMP investigate you because you are trying to fundraise for your coffee break committee and trying to divide \$40 between yourself and the coffee fund, that's the level of scale we are talking about. If you're talking about police everybody from the \$20 coffee fund to that, I don't know how far up the ladder or down the ladder we want to go on this, but if you demand an answer on it, I'm sure we could have our justice people look into the finite differences between such. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that's my point. I'm hoping that you will see that many of these fundraising initiatives are not...it's not a self-get rich quick kind of thing. I really think that your department recognizing what the environment we live in where things cost so much, why don't your policies reflect that? Why don't you try to find a way that you "Nunavutize" this policy in recognition that we live here, we know what things... ?

It's not about let's make \$30,000 so I can buy a new diamond ring. It really is

about truly...many times things are out of the control of the family and the coffee thing, you can't... That's where I'm going where I think that your policy should be a little bit clearer, that it doesn't include things like coffee because that would be a coffee fund, because that would be ridiculous.

Why don't we try to just put some common sense into this policy and this legislation so we can do things like this, recognizing the other things that might need more regulation? Like you said, when you start to go into the \$30,000 to \$40,000 and up range, yes, I agree, but the little things, I think, it should be looked again. It really should be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's exactly what we are doing. That's why people don't complain. I said we haven't had complaints from the public to our Consumer Affairs about people who are fundraising for those very things. It's because it's "Nunavutized", because they know that it's their neighbour or their friend or somebody they know who is trying to fundraise for those things. If they complain about it, then something is going to be done.

It's that loose. I don't want to see us to tighten it up where we start excluding and including and getting into that detail. I think it's taking care of itself. I haven't heard any complaints of anybody that's gotten rich from doing a coffee fund fundraising or bringing family in for bereavement or other causes like that. I think it's working well and we will continue to monitor it, Mr. Chairman.

We will keep our ear to the ground and if complaints start coming up in terms of misuse of lottery licences or stuff like that, we will stay on top of it and I will keep you abreast on that if we're getting complaints and what we plan do on it, but I couldn't agree with you more, Ms. Angnakak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to also not make it so difficult for people, but there has been more talk about this. The CGS has put out an ad making sure that everybody remembers they need to have a licence. This is why you're getting a feedback, but it might not be right to your office because a lot of people don't even know where to go if they are upset. It's not always, "Oh, I know exactly which number to call." I guess I'm just saying to you that heads up, that I would like to see it be easier to navigate and not to be an offence to hold such things with. You did say that a 50-50 did need a licence.

I'm going to leave it at that because I do want to talk about one other thing. We have been talking a lot about search and rescue. In no way am I an expert in this, but I have often wondered why we don't extend our cell service in a longer range from a community because it would be a lot cheaper, I think, in the long run if people had just their regular cellphones, if you're lost or whatever, that you could use that cellphone. Maybe this really can't be done, but let's take Iqaluit. We can use a cellphone across the bay. We can use the cellphone when you are in the middle of the *imavik* down there, but there are certain places you can't.

I don't know what it would... . What

would it take? Would it be a series of towers, where you can extend it and if we were able to do that, is that something that the government would be responsible for or what? Can you just give me a better understanding about how we can go about doing this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be an exorbitant amount of money to spend to put up satellite receiver antennas in all directions because we don't know in which direction individuals may be getting lost, if it's down towards the coast or up in land. You multiply that by 25 communities, it is a very large amount of money to even begin to talk about putting repeater stations for cellphones. We're finally getting to the point where cellphone access is almost available in all communities. That's the responsibility of the telephone providers. I don't think we should be in that business.

I can assure you something, Ms. Angnakak. We do provide every community a whole number of SPOT devices. If everybody who goes hunting would use those SPOT devices and bring them back when they're done with them, our search would go from searching to just rescuing and we would save hundreds of thousands of dollars. The difference between looking for someone and going to get someone is a large difference in the amount of money between those two. I think our department right now is concentrating on providing SPOT devices available to all communities, and as those things improve and as people catch on to it, it

brings down our costs.

In terms of trying to put repeater stations for cellphones, we haven't even begun to tackle that. It's just an enormous amount of money to deal with because you would have to spread it throughout. Some communities where the land is a little flatter than others, it's probably easier, but again, short of repeating myself, it's just an enormous amount of money to look at, at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before we go on to my next name, I want to welcome people who are listening in on the sitting. Welcome to the Assembly.

>> *Applause*

Next name on the list, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, like the Chair would like to welcome the Mayor of Baker Lake, Shawn Attungala, and the SAO of Baker Lake, Sheldon Dorey. It's perfect timing to come into the Assembly while we're doing Community and Government Services.

My first question to the minister is, on December 7, 2018 your department issued a *Request for Proposals - Nunavut Municipal Funding: Analysis and Planning*. The stated purpose of the RFP is to "develop a 5-year plan and operating cycle for the administration of the Municipal Funding Program (MFP) and the Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Program (WSSSP), aligned with municipal needs and the GN policy framework and budget cycle, to ensure the ongoing responsiveness of these programs to evolving municipal needs."

The RFP closed on January 11, 2019. Which organization or individual has been awarded the contract to conduct this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract is out and we're anticipating the initial results from that at the end of this fiscal year, in the next few weeks. They're consulting with mayors, such as Mr. Attungala from Baker Lake, and fine Senior Administrative Officers Sheldon Dorey in Baker Lake and Roy Mullins from Chesterfield Inlet, who are in our gallery today. Welcome, gentlemen. They partake in these works and we anticipate the initial results from that work at the end of this fiscal year, but it's a document that will be ongoing, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation):** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess my next line of questioning will be: your department's draft 2019-2022 business plan indicates on page 217 that it "worked with Municipalities to review the Integrated Community Sustainability Planning process and considered options to improve the integration of community infrastructure needs into the GN's capital planning framework." What specific options have been considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have begun the process of that, Mr. Chairman. I thank my

colleague for the question. (interpretation) In order to start the process, we include the hamlet councils in the integrated community sustainability planning. For example, we include the mayors of the communities in discussions so that they can provide their input and make decisions on that. That's just an example; there are others, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. My follow-up question to this would be: what specific changes to the government's capital planning process have been made as a result of these consultations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we can see the changes through the ICSPs in terms of what their needs are, what their requests are, and how we can tighten up the system. Once they are tightened up, we will have a better understanding of what their priorities are. That is where the improvement is, and then we would be directed by the government to deal with the priorities of the communities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2019-2022 draft business plan indicates on page 217 again that one of its priorities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is to "Develop a GN Long Term Infrastructure Plan in support of the

delivery of the Investing in Canada Program..."

However, section 8 of the Canada-Nunavut Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program required the Government of Nunavut to submit an infrastructure plan to the federal government by November 30, 2018.

What did the Government of Nunavut actually submit to the federal government and will you commit to tabling a copy of the submissions in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we submitted on that for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program is a large document and I believe I shared that with the chairman of the Regular Members' Caucus. We have committed to sharing it with you and we have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my colleague who has provided me a copy for me to glance at.

In my community's case a submission was made to the federal government for an infrastructure plan program to the federal government and the fire occurred after November 30. Will that also be taken into consideration as another submission? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What happened in Baker Lake are municipal assets and it's being dealt with through NAMIX and through that line, and I don't think it changes the submissions made to date. We're dealing with that with the fine gentlemen in the gallery to deal with those issues expeditiously, but it wouldn't change the document that my colleague is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In looking at this document, Nunavut's Long-term Infrastructure Plan 2018, on page 17 of 22 it also identifies parking garages. I guess that's what I'm referring to currently. As a community, we are going to have to replace the parking garage that went up in flames. I'm just trying to ask here: could the community, working with Community and Government Services, put in a federal submission? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to discourage my colleague and not to reiterate myself, but we are working with the municipality and the municipality is doing a super job of taking a look at the assets that they lost in that unfortunate fire. Right now that whole process is being dealt with through the insurance and that process. I don't think that that changes the need to change this document.

Mr. Chairman, this document is one that is a fluid document. It's ongoing and if we need to make changes, we have an ability to make exceptions and changes

where we need to. I assured my colleague that we will do what we can to work with the community that he's referring to and ensure that they get all the support that's given to them. This document that he's referring to does not hinder that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next question here would be, a couple of years back, I believe, there was a GN asset that was turned over to the Hamlet of Baker Lake. Currently right now the building needs to receive some renovations and ongoing operations and maintenance funding for the community of Baker Lake. How would the municipality go about requesting funding to Community and Government Services so that it benefits the community's search and rescue team? I guess that's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're more than happy to meet with the municipality and discuss those kinds of situations and at that time agree to see how and where we could help them with those things. It just would be a matter of our fine staff meeting with theirs and taking a look at what steps need to be taken, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're at Local Government Services. Next name on my list, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is on (interpretation ends) Community

Planning and Lands. (interpretation) Has Pangnirtung identified or asked for any support in this area for this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a copy of the community plans in regard to land. They're not in front of us and I believe you're talking about the ICSP. I can provide a copy of it once I have it available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I just wanted to get some information about the situation or what Pangnirtung has made plans for there. Does your department decide which community they're going to be working with in any particular year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. All communities identify a need which would make improvements in their community, be it a garage or an office space or some infrastructure. They're usually compiled together on a yearly basis and our officials visit the communities on an annual basis to identify their priorities and so on. Our officials work with the mayors and administrative officers to identify the priorities.

For example, if all communities need a parking garage, then we decide which community will be placed as a priority. We look at the age and condition of the

building and safety concerns. There are different criteria that we follow when we're prioritizing the needs of the communities, and that's when we decide Pangnirtung will be first and then Chesterfield Inlet, and so on. They make decisions on different things like that. I hope I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you for that information. That's why I asked if Pangnirtung has prioritized any of their needs and, looking at the hamlet, I know their parking garage would go through the capital process. I wanted to know if the Hamlet of Pangnirtung has identified anything for 2019-2020 and if you have worked with them. That's what I was trying to ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have worked with all the hamlets and they have all indicated to us what their absolute priorities are, for example, hamlet garages. All of the hamlets have ICSPs, including Pangnirtung. I can give you a copy of the ICSP for Pangnirtung as soon as I can. For example, they explain to us which community has the most absolute need for garages out of 24, and right now Pangnirtung is 15th on the list of communities that need garages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you for explaining that. Thank you. Another question that I would like to ask

is on the business plan page 215, (interpretation ends) Senior Citizen and Disabled Persons Tax Relief. (interpretation) Is this different from the senior property tax rebate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. Iqaluit is a tax-based community because it's a city and it's the only community that does that. The City of Iqaluit determines how much tax the senior citizens and disabled people would pay or how much tax relief they would get for the taxes they pay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Reading it, that's what it sounds like. I guess it's separate as well. It's not here, the property taxes for seniors who own property. Is it somewhere else? We have to pay taxes as homeowners and seniors are usually exempt after filling out a form. I wonder where that originates from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for property taxes and just for the city. As for other taxes that seniors have to pay, it's not in our budget, so I don't know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Maybe I wasn't clear enough with my question. Let me move on to something else. The question I was

trying to ask, I had asked it in a written question as well. I was asking how many elders who own their own homes get help from CGS. That's what I really wanted to find out, like which department handles it.

Let me move on to something else. In the business plan under (interpretation ends) Community Infrastructure (interpretation) it states, (interpretation ends) "Develops the departmental Five Year Capital Plan. Provides research, planning, administration and financial oversight for municipal infrastructure projects. Integrates community-identified priorities into the capital planning process." (interpretation) Under that, what sort of plans do you have for this coming year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the communities in Nunavut always want to have a five-year plan and they set up their priorities on what they want to see first. Through that planning process, we work with all of the hamlets to set their priorities. For example, I stated their need for parking garages. We work with them in setting up priorities and also other planning for administrative offices or other infrastructure. We help them set the list of stuff they need and then as a government we look to see which projects we can proceed with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Another question I would like to ask is about the (interpretation ends)

Municipal Training Grant.  
(interpretation) I know that when the hamlets get a new council, they get orientation on the operations of the hamlet. The question I have is: do you visit the communities every year or do you go to them right after the elections have settled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Orientation for new councillors is continuing. New councillors are orientated. Now, when there are going to be the same election dates and they request to be orientated, then they get taught responsibilities as a councillor. That would continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before we go to the next name, we will take a 10-minute break.

*>>Committee recessed at 14:53 and resumed at 15:08*

**Chairman:** Good afternoon. I call the committee meeting back to order. We're on Local Government Services. The next name on my list, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask questions to better understand hamlet operations within communities as they are the municipal government. When they request assistance, it is to meet the needs of their communities. How does this process start in terms of triggering the start of a project within the capital planning process? If a community is going to request capital items without any local funding for their operations since they have no tax base, many

communities don't have the ability to raise revenues even as hamlets. If I'm understandable, that's what I'm asking the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to your question there are different sources. All the hamlets get funding for operations and we understand that it's usually not enough. I believe we all agree that it's usually not enough. However, when they are requesting money that they can use on top of the operational funding that they receive, the mayors and SAOs can check with our department and they do check with our department. They give us a request of what they want or what they want to do and they check with our department. They're allowed to check with our department on how they can make their idea of a project reality. We also work with them through communications and through understandings between us. I hope that was clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his clear, concise response. Now, when dealing with departments other than CGS, when hamlets are requested to submit positions and if they determine that their priorities are different, especially for large capital projects, now which departments that have funding are able to accept hamlet funding requests? Hopefully I'll be understood, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different funding sources that are available in Canada for certain things that groups want to do. There are grants available with our department for power projects. There's funding available for that. There are other funding sources even outside of Canada that hamlets can access. There are lending institutions and proposal-based funding that is available to the hamlets.

Whenever hamlets need money for certain things that are outside of their operating budget, the government has funding programs available, for example, youth hunting programs. Daycares also have their own funding sources within our government. There's nothing stopping them from requesting money from those other programs as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that makes sense.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also appreciate a comprehensible response I can clearly understand from the minister.

If a hamlet submits a request to any or either department, to yours or to another one where hamlets are eligible to apply for funding, when the funds are going to be allocated, let's say, is \$1 million the upper limit or would it be much lower? I would like to understand this process which is why I am querying you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hamlets can

request for funding from different sources for whatever project, but we will try to help them make the proposals if they need help in filling out the applications. We can't tell them how much money they can or can't request because they are their own government as well and they run themselves. They have the freedom to look for their own contributions outside of our department as long as it falls under the responsibility of what the hamlet does. If they want to find their own funds or borrow money, we can't control them because they are independent hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to move to a different matter here. I want to understand this issue, which is why I will ask you this question by stating the subject in English for the sake of your comprehension, which I really want to ask about and that is (interpretation ends) Community Development (interpretation) on page 214 of the business plan. It seems to be lower down in the statement where it is written down. I really would like to get a clear understanding of this language here, hence the question. If the minister can elaborate on exactly how this works as I want to be clear in grasping it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlets are looking at becoming more self-sufficient and building more capacity, as well as being able to fund projects independently, as that is the goal of self-

sufficiency. We try to assist the communities to move forward with their development when they require assistance to research ways to become more independent operationally. This is towards providing assistance to communities. I hope I came across, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I understand that it isn't only the hamlet council that can provide development within a community. To extemporize, let's say the LHO or perhaps even the DEA and maybe some other organization that has a board overseeing it. Is this geared towards these types of bodies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding he is looking at is targeted to community development. That's where the funding goes. They support the hamlets where and when required in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his clear response. Now I'll move to a different topic that relates to the hamlet within the community, that is, the municipal government. Within your department, what kind of ability is transferrable in terms of operational capacity within the municipality and are there any plans to this effect? I wish to understand this and again I am asking about this for my benefit. Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlets maintain all operations in the communities. They deal with road management, they provide land lots in communities that are either residential or commercial, they designate different things in town, and they deal with the roads. The hamlet sets the rules in the community for areas such as this. It could be in relation to dogs or whatever it might be for the community. The hamlets do the work of running the community operations, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If legislation is contemplated or if they wish to draft by-laws to this effect within the hamlet boundaries, does this have to go past your department or can it be done independently to work on by-laws to deal with this issue in their community? I hope I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. When hamlets enact by-laws or when they are drafting by-laws, it is done in conjunction with my department to ensure the by-laws comply with the overarching legislation and don't overextend past the legal parameters. The by-laws are also reviewed for legal compliance with Nunavut and Canada's legislation to

ensure consistency. We try to work hand in hand with the hamlets if they so wish. This ensures the by-laws being drafted are compliant as well as applicable in the community, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for clarifying that in my mind. I'll move on to another matter that has been the bane of some of my colleagues earlier pertaining to SAR operations. When a search ensues in a community, whether they are searching for a single person or a party, when the search doesn't yield any results, how many days or weekends must pass before the search is called off? Upon calling off the search officially, is there any other avenue to allow the community to continue to try to resolve it to their satisfaction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, the process of a search and rescue effort is the sole purpose of finding them alive. That much is obvious. When a search ensues, the relatives are undergoing a stressful situation that is emotionally charged. We work with the local SAR groups in the community, along with the RCMP, the local officials in charge of emergencies, and the Emergency Management Division representatives from my department. We try to cooperate in order to have a successful conclusion to a search and to try to find the missing party earlier.

If a search doesn't yield results and the missing party can't be found, the same

stakeholders have to deliberate upon a final decision and this includes consultation with the local SAR group, the leaders of the community, the RCMP, as well as Emergency Management Division representatives. The decision is made consensually to end the search or to temporarily suspend it and resume when the weather subsides or to continue it or completely call it off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that clarification. This other matter relates to the actual people conducting the search, which can be very stressful and even traumatic, as obviously every community continually demands or requests contingency or replacement parts due to the lack of dedicated resources other than personal equipment. They have no access to any dedicated Canadian SAR equipment. What sort of consideration do they put into the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, or even the Baffin region? If they're going to suspend the search, what other sources can we use? I hope I came across, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue remains in not having a Nunavut base of operations, and it doesn't look like we will be getting an airplane or helicopters located here anytime soon on standby for search and rescue as a major capital item.

I do know when an emergency happens and the response team is busy, when we

require airplanes or helicopters, those services are available and it takes some time to wait. They always respond as soon as we call them. Sometimes they have an airplane in the area, so that helps, but it is hard to get a location up in the north for this. It's a major expense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. Going to another topic, earlier one of my colleagues here from Uqqummiut brought up a topic that I want to supplement. There are three communities that don't have plans: Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung, and Chesterfield Inlet. I wonder what those plans entail. I missed part of that discussion, so if you can clarify what they were talking about earlier, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The difficulty in answering the question is there are different reasons. We don't see all the reasons for why they're not approved or why they haven't brought these plans forward. We are working with them to finalize their plans and we will find out what the problems are and work on this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name on my list, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll try to keep it as short as possible. (interpretation) I'm grateful the minister agrees that the funding for hamlets is not

adequate. I think we all know this. (interpretation ends) How many hamlets are currently operating on a deficit recovery plan across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just let me finalize that. Based on the 2017-18 audited financial statements, 10 communities remain in a deficit in their operating funds. They are improving, though. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Are there any common contributing factors to these deficits? It seems like it's a never-ending kind of cycle across Nunavut, constantly going in and out of deficit, and it would be nice to see some stability for the hamlets. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. The biggest issue seems to be turnover of senior administrative officers or finance managers and not being able to have stability in that high position, it starts to create these issues, unfortunately, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't want to get into the municipalities' territory; it's their prerogative how they

want to operate. Have there been any pilot projects or any work done to try to address this? It just seems to be a long-standing issue and it seems like there's a little industry out there of people that do a lot of good work, but they're deficit recovery specialists and they go from community to community and they're working as temporary SAOs. Is there any plan to try something different in any of municipalities that are experiencing these deficits?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're very aware of the frustrations, I think, that our municipalities go through in trying to get capable senior administrative officers and financial management people in each municipality, and not just getting them but also maintaining them. We're working closely and working with the Municipal Training Organization and we're reviewing the training and support of staff for the municipalities. We're working on engaging with the leaders of the community to provide them with the training and support that they need to get in order to be effective senior administrative officers.

I think one of the things we're looking at also is trying to work in terms of getting people attracted into those positions from those communities and hopefully that will alleviate some of those pressures, but it's not just getting a senior administrative officer but getting one that is capable of doing the hard work and maintaining budgets as they're aligned and stuff. It's a constant struggle. If my colleague has any ideas

of how we can better do that, I would love to hear that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I do have some ideas, but I don't know if they're good or not, so I'll keep them to myself for now.

I note that in 2017-18, the actuals, it appears that the department lapsed some of this Municipal Funding Program money about \$750,000. I realize that's in the past. I'm not even sure who the minister was at the time, but going forward, will the department be working to make sure that all of this Municipal Funding Program money gets to the hamlets? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to assure my colleague that we caught that and there's no money going to be lapsed this year. We made sure that every cent of it is going to be spent, but some of the reasons why it was lapsed was many of the local government grants and contributions programs were application-based. In some cases there may not be enough proposals to fully allocate a budget with funds specifically identified for that purpose. In some cases organizations may have outstanding reporting requirements that must be addressed before the department can allocate funds.

In the 2017-18 cases where allocations are formula-based, the input may not

have been updated to support full allocation of particular funds, for example, but we have rectified some of these issues and all funds will be allocated this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) *Ma'na*, minister, for that information. I understand in your response to my written question you mention that CGS has drafted revisions. This is right on the very last page. "CGS has drafted revisions to expired grants and contributions policies, including the Municipal Funding Program." Is this the result of that review, the RFP that's going on, or is this something different?

I guess my question is, the work that's going on right now to review the Municipal Funding Program is supposed to be completed by the end of March. When is the soonest date we could see a revised formula going forward for this program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a target date yet for the revised formula, but I would be able to provide it for him as soon as we do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just a comment, I think whatever you formula you have should have an index factor so that rising costs are built into

the formula just as a base factor. That's just a comment.

(interpretation) On a different subject, there's the matter of lack of water in Whale Cove which I have previously asked about. (interpretation ends) The minister talked about the water strategy framework. Currently how many communities are in contravention of their water licence from the water board? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, I unfortunately don't have the answer for exactly how many are in contravention at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It was my understanding that this is something CGS is involved in and provides support on with water licensing, so if the minister could just confirm if they do support with water licensing issues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do work with them, but we don't issue them, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify, the department currently

doesn't know how many hamlets or how many communities are in contravention of their water licence. (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to say we don't know. I'm sure we do know; we just don't have the knowledge at this table of that exact number, Mr. Chairman. I'll be more than happy to provide it to my colleague as soon as it is available to me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)  
Thank you, minister, for offering that.

Moving to the letter that the minister provided to the caucus, thank you very much for the additional information. I would just like to flag on the third page, it mentions tabling of documents during the summer sitting of the Legislative Assembly. As far as I know, we don't have a summer sitting. I kind of hope we don't.

>>Laughter

That's just flagged on the third page of your letter. It says summer sitting.

On the fifth page of this letter you mention the parking garage program. It says, "The communities of Kugaaruk, Cambridge Bay, and Clyde River will be the pilot project communities." Could the minister clarify what pilot project this is referring to? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I was going to be able to slip the summer sitting by you, Mr. Chairman, but I got caught. No, Mr. Chairman, I'll take note of that. We will file those documents as soon as we can, before the summer sitting if we can, if not, shortly thereafter.

Mr. Chairman, in terms of the parking garage particular details, if I could ask Mr. Seeley to respond to that through you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The parking garage topic is one that was a focal point throughout the SAO and mayors' meeting that we hosted this week here in Iqaluit. The department is taking a few new steps as far as assessing the actual parking space needs within municipalities. We're taking more of a quantified approach of actually assessing existing and emerging fleet sizes within municipalities in comparison to their existing storage space.

The three communities mentioned by the minister were identified as the ones that had the largest differential between their existing space and their fleet size. By taking a more quantified, measured approach in assessing parking garage needs, we hope to be able to better meet the communities with the highest needs based on the size of their existing fleet and their purchases in the near future.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know I have brought this up before, but I'll bring it up again, and it sounds like it was a hot topic. Was there any discussion or request from any municipality to build their own parking garage? I believe the term is full contract authority to take it off the government's hands and handle the capital project themselves. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That topic comes up a lot, as you can appreciate, Mr. Chairman. We have had discussions with municipalities about the possibility of municipalities building their own garages within their own funding. It becomes a fine line of trying to ensure that in doing that, that municipality is not taking funds needed away from other priority areas where they come back to the government and say, "Well we built this parking garage and therefore we don't have any more money for a water tank or a sewage truck," or so on and so forth.

As long as those parameters are met, we're more than happy to discuss on a case-by-case basis and individual community needs basis to see if there is somewhere somehow we can't work on those things. There is nothing stopping us from doing that, but again, we have to and the municipality does anyway, but we have to respect the funds that we allocate are being used for what they're allocated for and if the community does otherwise, they're not putting those in jeopardy, if that makes sense, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think, in the long term, that is where we need to go because eventually you would have hamlets that are planning their own capital and they have the capacity to do that and the authority to do that. I'll just leave that as a comment.

Of course I'll mention that there is a huge need for a parking garage in my home community of Arviat. I hope that they are somewhere on that list. Actually you did mention some sort of a priority list. Where is Arviat currently on that list as it stands under the current formula? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that was just a comment before the question, but you know what I would like to see and what our department talks about is the ability to take... . When you talk to concerns brought up by Mr. Rumbolt earlier about having mobile equipment funds that don't quite meet, exceed, or even meet the needs of the municipalities, we have talked about the possibility of having an infrastructure fund.

We call it a mobile equipment fund, but if we can maybe add to it or whatever and keep it from just being a mobile fund but to encompass infrastructure for the municipalities, that is something that we would discuss and see where we can go because the municipalities need to have more funding for things like this.

In terms of where you are or where

Arviat is on the list, Arviat is fourth on the list and Whale Cove is 19th on the list of the parking garage ranking results. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's unfortunate we're fourth in line and there are three ahead of us. Can the minister give the letter to all members so that we can see what the set-up is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, indeed, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that it's for capital. Thank you, minister.

(interpretation ends) I just have three more questions. My first question is regarding the fact that the housing corporation is currently funding a good chunk of hamlet operations through the way that public housing units are billed for water. I understand that's a long-standing issue. Because the hamlets are underfunded, they have to make up that amount that they're underfunded by, by charging the housing corporation a high rate. It works out, but it's a roundabout process. I know this is in the housing corporation's blueprint for action and I note that on your business plan you reference specifically the housing corporation, working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to implement the objectives.

With regard to that funding labyrinth or situation, is there an end in sight or is there a solution that has been proposed to this in order to change this long-standing practice? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope there is an end in sight.

Mr. Chairman, through this process we are consulting with the housing corporation. In fact in the coming weeks the president of the housing corporation will be over there. The CEO and president of the housing corporation will be meeting with my deputy to discuss that and other matters pertaining to those subjects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's good to know that's ongoing.

My second-last question is regarding decentralization. I note that CGS does have a number of decentralized offices, including one in Baker Lake. It's great to see that you have an assistant deputy minister with strong roots in one of Nunavut's smaller communities. Does the assistant deputy minister's office currently outside of Iqaluit? That's kind of a unique arrangement and one that I think has a lot of exciting benefits. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for the

question. Mr. Chairman, a few years ago the assistant deputy minister had a full-time office located in the Rankin Inlet community and a few years ago it was transferred to be working out of Iqaluit. That's where it is currently, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess this will be my last question. I would just like the minister to commit to working within his department to make sure that decentralization is supported properly. Decentralization, it's my understanding, doesn't just mean moving jobs; it means moving decision-making power and spreading it around. It's concerning to hear that there was kind of a shift away from that. That's just my last question.

I will add that, nothing against the current deputy minister, welcome to Nunavut again, and looking at the whole territory, I think it's important to spread the decision-making power around. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree more, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad I have Ms. Constance as our deputy and her, I, and other staff will work closely to ensure that that happens, that we have decision-making powers outside Iqaluit. There's no reason why that can't continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're at Local Government Services. Total Operations

and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$87,355,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** J-6. Community and Government Services. Information Management and Information Technology. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was concerned about fibre optics underground. I indicated that there's a lot of iceberg movement along Baffin Island and they're in constant motion even in the winter. Some do stay in one place in certain parts of the year. I did have concerns with the feasibility of the undersea fibre optic cable in that area.

Your department's business plan for 2019-2022 indicates that "The Eastern Arctic Undersea Fibre Optic Network undersea study...is underway and a desk side study took place in the fall of 2018 for the Kivalliq region." As of today, what is the timeline for submitting a proposal to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. It is of importance and we are working on it. We will have a better idea in May of whether that proposal will be agreed to by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure it's going to cost quite a bit. Can the minister

indicate how much funding they will be requesting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this project, we have requested \$105 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that clear response. Regarding the Eastern Arctic Undersea Fibre Optic Network undersea study and the Kivalliq desk side study, will you commit to tabling the results of these studies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, all studies on these two and following the completion of the results, we will commit to tabling them so that we will all be informed and be on the same page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're on Information Management and Information Technology. The government does a lot of work on information technology under this division. I wonder if the IT positions are fully staffed and possibly a lot of it is done here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Information Management and Information Technology Division, we have enough staff, but sometimes we require additional staff in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I brought this question up... Looking at the *Procurement Activity Report 2016-17*, I believe it was the last one that had been tabled. The minister indicated that the same kind of report will be tabled in the spring and I'm assuming it's going to be for 2017-18 or 2018-19. I would assume that they would be tabled in the fall session. Am I correct? It seems like they're a bit late in tabling all this information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. In regard to the contract and procurement activity reports, it outlines who was contracted and all that information is compiled together. We're currently working on the latest information and we would like to have it tabled prior to the end of the winter sitting if it's possible. I believe she's asking about the (interpretation ends) CAR-PAR-LAR. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking through the information for 2016-17 and contracts that had been awarded to deal with the information management and

information technology, how many (interpretation ends) senior project managers (interpretation) are here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the senior managers under this division, let me look up the information, if you can wait, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you. We don't have them divided by category, but we have 74 PYs at the headquarters and in the IT divisions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. You indicated that there are 74 PYs for information technology. Do you have the number of senior project managers here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): It's not categorized which ones are senior project managers in information technology. Once I have them categorized, I'll make sure that I give you the information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know that and how many are based in Iqaluit. Looking at the documents here, (interpretation ends) senior project managers (interpretation) have been requested to work in Iqaluit. They have

been bringing in IT workers from outside of Nunavut.

In 2016-17 they brought in what looks like over ten and some of them cost \$70,000 for one (interpretation ends) senior project manager (interpretation) up to \$215,000 for one person who was brought in as a senior project manager. How long did they come here to work? That's what I would like to know.

(interpretation ends) These are in the millions, sending senior project managers to Iqaluit from outside of Nunavut. (interpretation) How long are these senior project managers here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't address the ones from 2016. It's like three years ago. However, the (interpretation ends) project managers (interpretation) that the member is referring to are not all just IT workers. They are very specialized program workers and they work on mainframes and frameworks. They do the work that is way above just IT workers. They also help in programming how the computer will run, how the search engine will run, and things like that.

We don't really have people knowledgeable like that up here, so we have to get them through contracts. We need to hire people who are professionals like that who can work on computers. If we had local people who could that, then we wouldn't have to hire them through contracts. We know that we're always lacking IT workers. I can reiterate that right now we're in

recruitment for information technology workers within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what you're saying that there are really not many IT professionals in Nunavut. Do I understand that this kind of work will continue to be done like that by having people from outside of Nunavut and you won't get people from Nunavut to learn how to do that? Are you just going to keep on hiring and sending in people from outside of Nunavut for that work?

It's a lot of money; it looks like too much money. They have been brought only to Iqaluit by CGS, or am I misunderstanding here? I would like to know how much time they spend up here. It looks like they are permanent positions. Do you promote these job opportunities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My regrets if I made you misunderstand. No, we don't want to continue the way it has been going. Right now we're trying to recruit 22 IT workers, people who would work on computers. Some of them will be actual computer workers. Right now some work can only be done through contracts. Some of the PYs that we're trying to hire, once we can find more people who can do that kind of work, then we wouldn't have to hire other people through contracts. We would like to see IT workers in Nunavut, not just through contract.

If someone has to fix computers, for example, and they have to take the computer apart and put it back together, it requires specialized expertise because the computer can't fix itself. We're trying to find experts in that area, but we've had some problems. Although we are opening those positions up, we would like to fill them all and for sure the contract portion would be less and that's our goal. We're not stopping any time soon and we want employees not only from Nunavut but also outside of Nunavut who will move to the territory, not through contract. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is completely understandable, but looking at the (interpretation ends) procurement activity report, (interpretation) it seems like there is no end point. It states that for one year this is how much that was spent for that (interpretation ends) one job title. (interpretation) That looks like a lot of money to me, and they probably spent very little time here.

However, (interpretation ends) when do we draw the line? (interpretation) The government can spend so much money to bring in people who will work for a short period of time. I also saw this, (interpretation ends) by a whole different department, but "File Maker Training Manual," (interpretation) it was contracted for \$10,500. (interpretation ends) When do we say, (interpretation) "This is necessary and that other one is just wasting money"? Is there a point where it's cut off?

Has the (interpretation ends) Department of CGS (interpretation) brought in

workers in 2017-18? (interpretation ends) When do we draw the line or when does the department say enough is enough where we can't be using anymore in budget for stuff like this? That's my question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree with you more, Ms. Nakashuk. That is why we are actively looking for those positions to be filled. We are currently in the process of 22 active staffing positions that are underway, but we can't just not put out for something if that position is necessary. If it's not necessary, we wouldn't be putting it out. There is some stuff that is required to improve our software and we have the need for some very specialized work on our computer system in Nunavut. If that is required, then we can't just let it sit there. We do when we have to. I assure we're not frivolously doing that, and I hope in the very near future or now even that we keep improving our program set so that someday we don't need to contract for those positions. That's our goal, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list, Ms. Towntongie.

**Ms. Towntongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have two questions, one of them is, one of your department's priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year was to "Continue to work on developing a broadband and telecommunications strategy..." My question: what's the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the question, Ms. Towntongie. That project and that work is currently ongoing, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Towntongie.

**Ms. Towntongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the 2019-2022 business plan on page 220, fourth bullet, it tells me about "The Eastern Arctic Undersea Fibre Optic Network for phase one...and a desk side study took place in fall of 2018 for the Kivalliq region." It's informing me that these "...studies will be used...for the installation of fibre in Nunavut." First of all, I would like to know what a "desk side study" is. What's a desk side? Secondly, what's the time frame for submitting a proposal for the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are my questions.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This desk side study simply is at a desk and studying through Google Maps and that way to study for the fibre optics and how we can connect. That's more of a desk side study where you're not actually out in the field and scoping the seabed or that. That's what this desk side study is. We currently have proposals with the government to continue to be able to do that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of questions,

but before I get into them, I would like to make a request of the minister. I think what Ms. Nakashuk had stumbled across in the procurement activity report is a very serious issue in the fact that the Department of CGS is definitely using a number of contract services to fill the role of employees in the work that they do.

As the minister pointed out, the procurement activity report is quite outdated, being 2016-17. I would like to make a request to the minister that he provide us with information on Monday listing the number of contract services or contracts filling such roles as project managers, senior enterprise architects, senior data communications engineers, and so forth, position titles, so to speak. I would like to request that the minister provide us the listing of those service contracts for 2017-18 as well as the current service contracts that are currently in place in 2018-19.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to request the minister to provide us with that information when we commence with our proceedings on Monday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can only try, Mr. Chairman. I can't guarantee that they would be available by Monday in that detail, but we could try. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate it if the minister would try. I understand that he

had indicated that the 2017-18 Procurement Activity Report is pretty much complete, so the data is available and it is there. As for 2018-19, the information is all in the FreeBalance system and is easily accessible. I would appreciate if the minister would commit to providing us with that information on Monday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Monday is really close. Again, we can only try. I have committed to tabling that document as soon as it is ready. It will be ready at that time. It's after four o'clock now. I realize it is FreeBalance and it's not that difficult to get, but our department is very busy and we don't have a lot of staff, so I can only say we will try, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to reiterate the importance of my request. As a former GN employee there was always rumours going around of the Department of CGS and how they use these contractors to circumvent the competitive process and using them to fill positions with individuals that they choose, which is why I think it is crucial that we receive this information.

I do believe that it is time that the Department of CGS ceases the practice of using contractors to produce or to fill in for the work of employees, such as project managers and so forth. I would appreciate if the minister would commit to ensuring that the Department of CGS reduces its number of contractors in the

current fiscal year as well in 2019-2020 and going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to think that their jobs are not being filled purposely to support...those are very serious allegations and if he has them, I would sure like to find out who, why, where, and how. It's easy to sit here and assume allegations, but if my colleague has names of people who are being hired instead of putting the job ad out, maybe he can share that information with me when he was a government employee or otherwise. If you're going to make those allegations, then please provide me with names, times, and dates and I will be more than happy to provide feedback and to look into those allegations.

In terms of filling positions, some of the jobs that are out there have been put out two or three times and have not been filled for one reason or another. We continue to try to fill those positions and put them out. As I said, we have at least 22 positions in IT that we are putting out and we hope to be able to fill them. We don't put out contracts just for the sake of putting them out. These are jobs that have to be done.

I would like to assure myself that jobs aren't purposely not being filled so somebody's buddy could be working there, as my colleague suggests. Again, if he knows of it, I would sure like to find out, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's more of insinuating. I expressed a concern over rumours heard a number of years ago.

At the beginning of the review of the Department of Community and Government Services, I had asked the minister how many contractors are currently employed fulfilling the role of employees. The minister was unable to provide me a number, but in the most recent procurement activity report, there are at least over 60 job titles included under the description of these service contracts. In 2016-17 we know there are over 60 contractors fulfilling the role of employees, and I'm looking forward to seeing that information when it is released in the 2017-18 procurement activity report.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the time and I'll begin with my line of questioning. The business plan identifies a program titled "Computer Award Program" and it has a line amount of \$25,000. I was wondering if the minister would be able to tell us a little bit more about this program and what specifically the Computer Award Program is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it's an award program given to each community school and it's awarded through the principal. That's how we provide it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is in

relation to the Informatics Cooperative Training Program in the line amount of \$240,000. I'm quite interested over this as it's intended to train beneficiaries for informatics positions. I was wondering if the minister may be able to give us a little bit more information on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have, through you, Deputy Hourie to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Hourie.

**Ms. Hourie:** Thank you. I thank the member for his question. I can let folks know with regard to the Informatics Cooperative Training Program, yes, there is \$240,000 set aside for that program. We're currently working with NAC to review all student applications for eligibility. That's the relationship that we have with NAC. It's a two-year program.

Unfortunately at this point and last year we had lapsed that money. Currently NAC is reviewing their curriculum because it's outdated. They weren't able to utilize that funding for the students for last year. However, they're currently working on updating that and providing that service for next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hourie. I realize that you're new. We don't use acronyms during the meetings. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear that the

college will be recommencing the Information Technology Program.

My next question is about the Telecommunications Program. I noticed that there is a decrease in the projection for the 2020-21 fiscal year. I was curious: what is this projected decrease due to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you could have Ms. Constance respond, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Hourie.

**Ms. Hourie:** Thank you. Thanks to the member for the question. The telecommunications reduction of budget from 2019-2020 to 2020-21 is due to the change in contract from SSI to NorthwesTel and the redundancy during the transition period, which will be completed in 2019-2020, as well as the lower negotiated rate of service for that contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have intrigued my interest in this telecommunications contract. Would you elaborate a little bit further? You're switching from the current provider, SSI, to NorthwesTel. Is that for landlines or cellphones or Internet bandwidth? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we have

redundancy, as my deputy said, in terms of moving over from SSi, I believe, to NorthwTel. We were able to negotiate a cheaper or get a cheaper rate with NorthwTel, and that is for all the government IT services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number of years ago there was an interesting article on how KPMG, the accounting firm, had moved away from having traditional landlines installed in their offices as all of their employees had work cellphones. I was wondering if this is something that CGS had ever considered for the numerous GN employees who have work cellphones, as a landline might become redundant at that point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope we could see that at some point. We're still trying to get cellular service in every community, not just in every community but also become reliable and dependable. In a case where cellphones aren't working and you have an emergency, it would become quite difficult, but yes, I look forward to the time in the very near future, I hope, where we could do that. I agree, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Apologies. The last name on my list, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a whole lot of commentary, but I wanted to speak to the project plans that have been

developed in the Kivalliq, as I like that scenario and if it moves ahead, it would be Inuit-owned and Inuit could derive some income from the (interpretation ends) private sector (interpretation) in English. I am glad that it will be the private sector. The government cannot do everything for everybody in Nunavut.

Now this term, Katittuq, changing it to Katittut might make more sense. Katittuq is not correct in this context, as we laughed about that term earlier and I'm sure the minister understands. I want to better understand this. When the (interpretation ends) fibre optic (interpretation) network you are working on is functioning, would the government provide Internet? Would you become an Internet service provider to derive income from this or would it be non-profit based on the actual costs? How would you operate?

(interpretation ends) I'm curious as to how the sales function, the management of this fibre asset, what the plan is. I'm assuming there is some sort of plan in there in terms of who will sell the access to that asset and what would the pricing structure be, etcetera. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe all MLAs were happy to hear about the Kivalliq Inuit Association developing this fibre optic/hydro line from Manitoba and they have developed their plans. I have discussed this proposal with the leadership. This project we are discussing as the government portion would be to hook up the Baffin region from the Kivalliq region, perhaps

bypassing Coral Harbour, as it is an island, it would not be connected. We have discussed this option and to encourage further support for this project.

When the fibre optic line is linked to this region, we would review the possibilities and options, such as the ownership, whether it would be contracted out or through an RFP. If businesses wanted to operate the system, then this government would look at contracting it out to the private sector. Perhaps a business can derive income from this system. That's one of the options that we are looking at to see if benefits can be realized. We as the government wouldn't operate the system, even if we owned the system as we would contract out the operational side. Perhaps they can operate the system and have a payment plan to own it. Those are the types of issues we need to consider in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fact it will be undertaken in the future and although the plans are being developed, the question of operational issues that haven't been fully developed by the government makes me confused why they haven't put any plans forward prior to developing their options... .  
(interpretation ends) Anyway I'll leave that there.

When will the government have a plan in place in terms of managing this asset? I know that there is work ongoing on the strategy for broadband and telecommunications, but particularly for this asset, when will you have a plan in

place to manage it? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Ms. Hourie, my deputy, respond to that question, Mr. Chairman, through you. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Hourie.

**Ms. Hourie:** Thank you. I thank the member for the question. With regard to the plan, we have currently set up a working group of a number of deputies to look at fibre optics. In fact we have one meeting that's coming up, I believe, on March 8 where we're getting together with a number of departments to have some further conversations about this. We are hoping that we will have the fibre optics project underway for 2020 and are working towards that goal at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)  
Thank you. I hope that Economic Development and Transportation will be involved. Depending on how you look at it, that fibre project is an economic development project and not necessarily infrastructure, but I know it depends on how you look at it.

I would also hope that, as much as possible, you involve development corporations and give them a chance to accessing that because, (interpretation) as my colleague was talking about icebergs, he made a true statement. The fibre optic cable that's being used in Greenland seems to have been

disconnected by icebergs and I heard on the news that it still hasn't been fixed because the boats that are used to lay the cable are not available. (interpretation ends) That risk is real. That's just a comment, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I have no more questions. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're at Community and Government Services. Information Management and Information Technology. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$39,332,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Moving on with the orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 15 and the 2019-2020 main estimates and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole

be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Keyootak.

>> *Laughter*

The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. One. The motion is carried.

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

#### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 4:

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

behalf our relatives, our children, and our grandchildren in our absence.

16. Motions

>> *Applause*

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

I especially want to thank our pages who have been constantly on the move this week. Thank you!

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

>> *Applause*

- Bill 13
- Bill 15
- Bill 16
- Bill 17
- Bill 18

From the group of pages today, one has become a year older while serving in his capacity here. I thank you.

To our interpreters, without your linguistic bridges, we would be poorer in understanding one another.

>> *Applause*

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

To our staff here in the Legislative Assembly, I wish you a restful weekend without any issues and this includes all Nunavummiut.

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 4, at 1:30 p.m.

Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Now, prior to ending our session today, seeing as how we are again approaching the weekend, I hope that colleagues will rest up to recuperate. To colleagues who have family members present, enjoy your time off with your families. To colleagues who are alone without family members here, that is too unfortunate for you.

>> *House adjourned at 16:40*

>> *Laughter*

We have all agreed and committed to attend these sessions. For members without family members present, I thank your families for supporting you all here every day even though we are away for long periods, as you oversee on our

