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Speaker: The Honourable Simeon Mikkungwak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Baker Lake)

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David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

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*Premier; Minister of Executive and
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*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
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Hon. Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)
*Minister responsible for Nunavut
Arctic College; Minister responsible
for the Nunavut Housing
Corporation*

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
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*Government House Leader; Minister
of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for Immigration; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 22, 2019**

Members Present:

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

>>House commenced at 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Before we proceed, can you say the opening prayer, please, Member Keyootak.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Keyootak. To the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut, you will be watching your Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut at work.

Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 287 – 5(2):
Amaaqtaarniq Education Leave
Program**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day to the people of Nunavut and Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Human Resources, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to inform members and Nunavummiut of the newly updated Amaaqtaarniq Educational Leave Program. The Amaaqtaarniq education program sponsors long-term, post-secondary education leave for Government of Nunavut Inuit employees.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit government employees are eligible to apply for the Amaaqtaarniq education program, whether they are indeterminate, term, or casual, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

This fall 14 Inuit employees have enrolled in the Amaaqtaarniq Education Leave Program and are pursuing different areas of studies, such as trades, business administration, social work, and teacher education. This is the largest number of Inuit enrolled in the program to date who are attending full-time post-secondary studies at various universities and colleges across the country, including Nunavut Arctic College. The 14 participants are from all three regions of Nunavut. This record enrolment is promising and will lead to Inuit graduates who will soon be eligible to fill professional and specialized positions within the government.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut recognizes the need for qualified Inuit in professional and leadership roles within our government. To achieve our Inuit employment goals, we are committed to providing programs

like the Amaaqtaarniq education program. I would like to encourage other employees who are interested in joining the Amaaqtaarniq education program to contact Sivumuaqatigiit staff or visit the Department of HR website for more information.

Lastly, I would like to wish all the Amaaqtaarniq participants all the best in their studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 288 – 5(2):
Therapeutic Justice Program**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise to provide an update on the success of the Therapeutic Justice Program.

Since the opening of the program on April 1, 2019, it has received 12 clients. The program continues to expand in the services and supports it can provide. A case specialist is the key link between referral sources, clients, the therapeutic justice program team, and community resources. A mental health counsellor employed by the Department of Health provides clinical support for clients, address addictions, and assist individuals in developing healthy coping and relationship skills.

I am very pleased to inform you that [officials] from the Department of Justice will be travelling to two communities to conduct consultations

for possible expansion. At the end of the month the Department of Justice will be in Clyde River and will also visit Arviat in the near future.

The success of programs like the Therapeutic Justice Program are examples of how our justice system in Nunavut is positively moving away from the traditional style of justice and towards community-based programs and community supported healing. It is our hope that the success of this and similar community-based programs will positively affect all the lives of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 289 – 5(2):
Devolution Agreement in Principle**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say "good day" to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, before I begin my statement, I would just like to congratulate our newly elected MP for Nunavut...

>> *Applause*

...Mumilaaq Qaqqaq. Congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of this House know, devolution has been an ongoing priority of the Government of Nunavut. It will allow Nunavummiut to make decisions on how our public lands and resources are used and developed.

Mr. Speaker, on August 15, 2019 the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated took an important step on the journey to Nunavut's self-reliance by signing the Devolution Agreement in Principle, which we call the AIP.

Mr. Speaker, the devolution AIP is a significant milestone that confirms our three parties have arrived at a joint understanding on the main issues prior to their negotiations of the final Devolution Agreement. These main issues include:

- which federal responsibilities are to be transferred;
- when and how the transfer of these responsibilities will take place;
- the funding amounts agreed to in support of the transfer; and
- the development and funding of human resources development strategies for all devolution-related positions.

Mr. Speaker, both the AIP and its summary are available online on the Government of Nunavut's website. I encourage all members to spend some time understanding these important documents.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to appreciate the progress that has been made. Many years of hard work have gone into this achievement. There is still much work that needs to be done, but this is an incredible achievement for all of us. I look forward to providing updates as further progress is made on this important initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Sheutiapik.

Minister's Statement 290 – 5(2): Final Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, as many of you are aware, last June the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I attended the closing ceremony for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It was a very emotional day for everyone, including myself and family.

The Calls to Justice contained in the final report are vital to establishing a coordinated national response to the very real and systemic causes of violence against indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual, known as 2SLGBTQQIA people. Although we know how much work still needs to be done, here in Nunavut, we are already taking concrete steps that align with the inquiry's recommendations:

In Nunavut, Inuktitut has equal legal standing as an official language and Inuit societal values are recognized as the foundation of our society and government's work.

Our government reports annually on the number of children in care. The Umingmak Centre will deliver culturally appropriate child advocacy services in Nunavut.

Our government's victim service unit hosts information sessions and public awareness initiatives across Nunavut.

The Therapeutic Justice Pilot Program promotes an Inuit-based approach to treatment and rehabilitation services with culturally appropriate and community-based programming to support rehabilitation outside the correctional system.

Our government works to address family violence through community-level support and funding towards family violence shelters.

The Quality of Life Secretariat manages a multi-partner Suicide Prevention Strategy and its five-year prevention action plan.

Uqaqtitsijii, we are eager to hear how the federal government will support provinces, territories, and indigenous organizations in implementing these Calls to Justice and how they will respond to our needs to keep indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA people safe.

As part of our commitment to reduce violence against indigenous women and girls, we will continue to advocate for more funding, more resources, and more collaboration between partners to ensure we can adequately address this crisis in Nunavut and across the country.

Uqaqtitsijii, we are grateful for the

awareness raised by this inquiry and its report. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who attended the hearings in Nunavut and spoke. I'm sure it was not easy. I recognize them for their courage and strength in participating and sharing their experiences.

Due to the amount of information and attention to details contained within it, the final report is over 1,000 pages. While I will not be tabling it in the legislature, I will be providing a copy into the Legislative Library. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Education, Minister Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 291 – 5(2): Early Learning and Child Care Training

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtii*, from October 4 to 7 early child care educators and facility managers from across Nunavut were in Iqaluit for early learning and child care training sessions organized by the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, this training covered many topics focused on Inuktut, storytelling, and financial management. The keynote speaker was renowned Inuk author Michael Kusugak, who demonstrated techniques for telling a mesmerizing story.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, new Nunavut-developed early learning and child care resources were also introduced along with some exciting ideas on how to best use them. These resources are being distributed to Nunavut's 57 licensed facilities and were developed by my department and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

Mr. Speaker, this training is part of the Department of Education's three-year action plan developed from the bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada that increased the funding available for early learning and child care initiatives.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, early learning and child care training in conjunction with the new Inuktitut resources are keys to keeping our language alive. Children learn better when resources and their environment reflect their language and culture. This training and Nunavut-developed resources will certainly enable our young generations to preserve and strengthen their Inuit identity.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Health, Minister Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 292 – 5(2):
Embrace Life and Mental Health
Day**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday, September 10, many of us marked Embrace Life Day, a day to remember those we have lost to suicide and take time to support our

mental health and wellness. October 10, a month later, marked World Mental Health Day, which had the main theme of suicide prevention.

Mr. Speaker and members, our mental health is just as important as our physical health. We encourage all Nunavummiut to find time to practise self-care and positive coping skills. This could be through spending time with loved ones, enjoying time out on the land, or reading a book. These activities all contribute to individual wellness and inspire others to heal.

Mr. Speaker, Embrace Life Day was recognized across the territory, with many communities organizing events and gatherings to foster wellness and promote healing. Several communities put on walks and community feasts, encouraging youth, elders, and everyone in between to join. On October 10 Nunavummiut were again encouraged to join together to promote a healthy mindset and lend a hand to those who need it.

Mr. Speaker, even though Embrace Life Day and World Mental Health Day are each recognized once a year, I strongly encourage all Nunavummiut to take every day as an opportunity to foster positive mental health and well-being. Nunavummiut are incredibly resilient and services are available to support healing. I invite Nunavummiut to call or visit their local health centre and speak to a health care provider to support their own healing journey or the journey of someone they love.

Mr. Speaker and members, Nunavut continues to implement and encourage our shared commitments through the

Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Action Plan. While we all take different paths to healing, many sources of support are available along the way. Every person and organization in Nunavut can have a role in preventing suicide and in building a healthy community. Together we can all contribute to the achievement of this common vision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Minister's Statement 293 – 5(2):
National Small Business Week –
October 20 to 26, 2019**

Hon. David Akeegok: Mr. Speaker, the government is committed to diversifying and improving economic opportunities to encourage self-reliance and provide local employment through traditional industries, arts and culture, small businesses, mining, fisheries, and other sectors.

This week is National Small Business Week. I congratulate all of the small businesses in Nunavut. We support economic growth by investing in small businesses and promoting entrepreneurship.

We know that there are unique challenges to start up and operate a small business in a northern environment. Our team of dedicated staff are working hard to making our entrepreneurs successful.

The department maintains a number of programs that can help get small businesses started or expanded. We also support the development of Inuit tourism businesses and provide training for businesses in the Kivalliq region.

We also fund a number of partner organizations that support small businesses.

- Community economic development officers positions are located in each community and can serve as a first point of contact for Nunavut entrepreneurs and businesspeople.
- Regional business development centres can help with start-up, expansion, and advise on other operational needs.
- Funding for regional chambers of commerce is available through my department to support advocacy work and promotion on behalf of Nunavut businesses.
- We also fund a number of industry specific organizations that provide targeted support to Nunavut businesses in their sector.

I encourage Nunavummiut interested or engaged in business to reach out to our department or our partner organizations and learn what supports and funding programs are available for them.

Those starting out can also check out the *Seven Steps to Help You Start Your Business*. It's a guide that helps outline a path to successful entrepreneurship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Before we proceed, we celebrate with Trina Mumilaaq Qaqqaq on her election as the Member of Parliament for Nunavut.

I also inform members that the Member for Amittuq will be absent from the House today.

Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 439 – 5(2): Addressing Nursing Shortages

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues as well as people watching the proceedings in Arviat and Whale Cove. I also congratulate the Member of Parliament-elect.

As Canadian citizens, whenever we meet with global events as representatives or when people partake in such meetings, debilitating issues such as health challenges are continually brought up. The common refrain is that Canada's health system is exceptional since the government manages the health system and we don't have to pay for basic services.

Since we don't pay for medical services, the government has arbitrarily divided up the regions. Nevertheless, as a citizen of Arviat and in representing Whale Cove, we see much room for improvement in health care within Nunavut. As a matter of fact, some of our fellow Canadians, if they had to

receive medical services in some of our facilities, would wonder if they were still in Canada.

I submitted written questions on this issue to the Minister of Health and this was his response about the provision of medical services in Arviat and Whale Cove, that Arviat faced reduced services from August 1 to 30 due to the lack of staff. For the whole month, there were reduced services where only emergencies were dealt with for the entire month. That was in 2018. This is unacceptable and I will be raising that question to the Minister of Health and how services can be improved.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we need more health care staff for two reasons: number one is the obvious reason, to protect the well-being of Nunavummiut and to assist them when they're sick, and number two is to protect the existing health care workers and make sure they don't get burnt out and make sure that they can build a life here in Nunavut and that they can stay here in Nunavut provide those essential services to our residents.

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

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

Member's Statement 440 – 5(2): 2019 Graduates of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank

you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to the people who are watching the proceedings in Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to vociferously announce with pride and to share with colleagues this news about prospective teachers since teachers oversee our children daily from morning until late afternoon as parents no longer look after their children full time. Therefore teachers are a very important facet of our social lives, so we should always voice our pride in them.

Within the Teacher Education Program we have prospective teachers who take courses and upon graduation, we ought to voice our pride in their accomplishments. These students are from the other constituency community in my riding and they completed their courses this spring. There were five Inuit women whom I want to praise from Clyde River who took the teacher education courses and who completed their studies, and to name them:

- Sally Arreak
- Jennifer Jaypoody
- Irene Joanas
- Lucy Palituq
- Tracy Sanguya

I am very proud of these graduating students from the program who will now look after our children in Clyde River and who will now work within their community, providing a service all day. One takes pride in fellow citizens who accomplish such educational goals. I wanted to share this good news with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members’ Statements. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

**Member’s Statement 441 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Mumilaaq
Qaqqaq**

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this person was acknowledged earlier, I wanted to return to it shortly as I take great pride in the new MP-elect Mumilaaq Qaqqaq. She is 25 years young, which is even more of a reason to celebrate. Our youth also have vast potential and capabilities, which is why I take such pride in her accomplishment.

Part of the campaign promises she voiced were palpable and what she said about having to be resilient and to work on the things we can change, this is almost like directly targeted at us as Inuit in all regions. Our youth are the ones I want to see succeed and this highlights that we must chase our dreams if we want to accomplish milestones.

It is obvious that our new MP-elect, when she arrives in Ottawa to represent us in Parliament, will receive cooperation and collaboration from everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members’ Statements. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

**Member’s Statement 442 – 5(2):
Improving Our Education**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank

you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern regarding the education of my young constituents.

Mr. Speaker, the population of Nunavummiut is growing rapidly. It seems everything is moving very fast. At this rate we will outgrow everything that is currently in place.

Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to say is that the youth in our communities will need good and adequate space in which to receive their education, and we want our youth to have a good education. We want them to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, given the current situation, it is clear that my constituents in the community of Taloyoak will soon need a bigger school. Students as well as teachers and parents would all do better in an improved environment, with more space and healthier conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I do hope that the Minister of Education has considered the needs of my constituents in his capital planning. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members’ Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

**Member’s Statement 443 – 5(2):
Kugluktuk District Education
Authority**

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Kuglukturmiut and

Nunavummiut.

Today is a special day. I would like to send birthday greetings to my beautiful Sky Akeegok. Today is her birthday, and I’m sorry I can’t be at home with you today.

Mr. Speaker, it is election time in Nunavut. Candidates for our municipal councils and district education authorities have put their names in and next week the vote will take place, unless of course the number of candidates is fewer or equal to the number of vacant positions, in which case the proposed candidates are acclaimed. This is the case for Kugluktuk. I would like to congratulate the members of Kugluktuk’s newly acclaimed district education council:

- Angele Kuliktana
- Barbara Adjun
- Barbara Kapakatoak
- Darlene Metuituk
- Lena Pedersen
- Mavis Elias Adjun
- Valerie Miyok

Mr. Speaker, district education authorities play a number of important roles in the delivery of our education system. Our youth, the parents of our youth, our school staff and our communities all rely on the combined and collaborative efforts of the Department of Education and our DEAs.

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the newly acclaimed members of the Kugluktuk DEA for their dedication to the education of our youth and to the future of the community. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Member Qamaniq.

**Member's Statement 444 – 5(2):
Addressing Safe Shelters**

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Tununiq.

Before I begin my statement, I would like to congratulate Mumilaaq Qaqqaq, our new MP for the federal government, who will be representing Nunavut. I congratulate her on her election.

Mr. Speaker, during the minister's statement for family services, she stated that the Government of Nunavut provides support and funding for family violence shelters. At the appropriate time I will have questions to the Minister of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Member Hickes.

**Member's Statement 445 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Mayor
Madeleine Redfern**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to follow on my colleague from Kugluktuk's theme. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Iqaluit Mayor, Madeleine Redfern, and city council here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, tonight Mayor Redfern will chair the final council meeting of her term as Mayor of Iqaluit. As you know,

municipal elections are scheduled to take place across the territory on October 28, and she is not reoffering this election.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all members in the Chamber to join me in congratulating Mayor Redfern and the Iqaluit City Council on its successful term. Amongst her many accomplishments over the last four years, Mayor Redfern and council were able to bring the city out of its historical deficit and debt remaining from the dump fire, attract \$60 million in funding from the federal and territorial governments for municipal infrastructure, hire a new CAO who was promoted from within city staff, and get council support to help the Uquutaq Men's Shelter obtain funding to acquire two new buildings for men's emergency shelter and transition housing. This new centre will support up to 60 men with programming, shelter, and transitional housing.

Mr. Speaker and members, Mayor Redfern and council have initiated and delivered many solid initiatives for the City of Iqaluit, and it's important to keep up the good work. That's why I encourage all Iqalummiut to vote in the upcoming municipal election on October 28. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Member Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 446 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Mumilaaq
Qaqqaq**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to mention our newly elected MP as I take pride in her accomplishment. I am proud of her and know that we will be able to work together as Nunavummiut from all regions with her.

However, this other aspect relates to what I also wish to voice to the other candidates who weren't successful but in whom I also take pride in and I thank them tremendously. If they didn't put their names forward, we wouldn't have had an election.

>> *Applause*

I wish to congratulate the candidates as I am proud of all of them. Although they may not have been the winning candidates, each still received a lot of support throughout Nunavut, such sources of delight.

When candidates declare, they usually aren't in it for themselves but to provide public service to their fellow Nunavummiut. Nonetheless, it is due to their sense of public duty that they put their names forward. For that, I am proud of them and thankful for their sense of duty. I congratulate and thank them for offering themselves to that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeegok.

**Member's Statement 447 – 5(2):
Happy Anniversary to Brother
Amon Akeegok**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to voice my pleasure today in congratulating and noting it has already been 32 years since my younger brother Amon Akeegok met his spouse, Neevee Kakkee. They went to high school during residential school from different communities and became a couple, wherein they moved to Grise Fiord to raise their family.

They have five children and they now have four grandchildren, and recently they celebrated the birth of their newest grandchild and I am quite proud of them. I wanted to voice my pleasure publicly. Although the family is in town, his spouse is currently taking courses and they are unable to visit the House, so this is a verbal acknowledgement of their companionship.

I encourage them to carry on with more grandchildren, and to ensure their children continue to have children so Grise Fiord's population can increase exponentially. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Committee of the Whole Question 5(2): Conventional Hot Water Tanks Versus Energy Efficient On-demand Systems

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in response to Mr. Lightstone’s question during our sitting on March 4, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, the return is quite lengthy and detailed, but I have provided a copy to our Clerk for distribution to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are none. Continuing on. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 598 – 5(2): Addressing Nursing Shortages

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Health. In my member’s statement I talked about this issue.

(interpretation ends) My member’s statement was regarding health care staffing and I will draw attention again to the response to written question given by the department, which showed that from August 1 to August 30, 2018, in the community of Arviat, the health centre

was on reduced services for an entire month. I do want acknowledge all of the hard-working nurses and professionals in our health centres across Nunavut, but this is unacceptable for a health centre to be closed or opened only for emergencies on reduced services for an entire month.

My first question for the minister is we know that staffing is a problem. It has been a problem for a long time across Nunavut. What specifically is this government doing to address these staffing issues? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do agree with the member. It is very difficult to provide proper health care when you are in an understaffed health centre. I fully and freely acknowledge that.

The challenge, and I will say that it’s a challenge and it’s an ongoing one, and we’re not the only jurisdiction that are going through this challenge; it is nationwide and in a lot of cases internationally-wide shortage of nurses and health care professionals. Not that that’s an excuse, Mr. Speaker.

I know, within the department, we have been talking about different options of going forward on how to staff. I was hoping the model of care report would give me a lot more details and staffing complements, that part of the model of care report was less than desirable, I’ll say, in that regard. It wasn’t in the detail

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Committee of the Whole question on conventional hot water tanks.

that I had hoped.

When we're talking about staffing in the health centres, especially during summer months and Christmas season, we have to rely on casuals for a lot of our positions across the territory; contract nurses, agency nurses. I feel we have quite a lucrative pay package for nurses with bonus systems and different financial remunerations to be able to help nurses become more indeterminate. That at the end of the day is what the goal is, is to have more indeterminate nurses in the health centres, but that being said, it creates its own challenge. When we have indeterminate nurses in health centres, they are not able to take the perfect time off for summer holidays and at Christmastime, so we're always struggling to fill those gaps. This summer we were working on trying to fill Christmastime. We're already working on next summer; we know that we're going to be challenged.

I wish I had a definitive answer. I do know that there is a lot of work with our Nurse Recruitment Division. We've got a lot of proper feedback, a lot of positive feedback on the orientations that we're providing to our health care professionals. I'm sure that the member has additional questions that I can maybe elaborate on a little bit further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The minister mentioned the model of care review. My understanding of that review is that it was trying to look at, for example, how

many nurses do you put in this community? How many nurses go in this community? It was supposed to provide some sort of a formula to help the department make sure they have enough health care staff in each community.

The minister mentioned that the model of care review was not that fruitful. Right now, and I will use Arviat for an example, how does the department determine how many nurses are stationed or PYs, person years, are put into that community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no established formula. That's the kind of the point that I made and the member reiterated is I was hoping for a formula that I could grab onto to justify either increasing or decreasing. I can't imagine any health centres decreasing, but to be able to have something, like I said, like a formula that I can use to say, "Community X needs this, community Y needs that," we do look at the volume. That's taken into consideration.

Typically in the past there has been focus on the size of the community, but that varies. I mean the usage varies; you've got two communities side by side that have the same population and one that needs a lot more health care service. There's no established formula. We do look at the volume and we're continuously trying to recruit indeterminate nurses and to fill existing gaps.

There are 11 nursing positions within the Arviat Health Centre and they're not all

filled all the time. A lot of them are on casual or contract. That being said, with the TB staff that we have in there right now, we are up to staffing levels, but that's not going to help us come Christmastime, come summertime. We are actively working on recruitment. We are working with our partners to make sure that we've got sufficient staff.

Can I again sit here and promise that it's not going to be closed, some of the programming over some of these struggles of staffing levels? No, but I do know that there are people in the department who are working very hard on the nurse recruitment side of things and the scheduling side of things. I met with some of the staff last week that look after scheduling in the communities, and I don't envy them in their job, Mr. Speaker. Just from the physician side, I see all these tags on maps and colours everywhere and the different plans to put into place to make sure the coverage is there. That's just the physician side of things. The nursing side is ten times more complicated.

I appreciate the member's question and I hope I'm not running on not answering the question fully, but I do appreciate all members' patience and support to the health centre staff that when you do have people in your community, you keep on top of their well-being as well too and make sure they're treated properly and welcomed into the community as much as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Yes, I do have

patients, but it's the wrong kind. I have too many patients going to the health centre and I don't have enough patience waiting for this health care staffing shortage to be addressed.

My last question is, in the written question there's a list of jobs, staff positions in the communities of Arviat and Whale, and I believe that Arviat is big enough to justify a physician position. My last question is a yes or no for the minister. In the upcoming main budget next year, will we see a physician position located in Arviat, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: I wish I could just say yes or no; it's a little complicated. As I alluded to earlier, I'm looking at with my departmental officials on different staffing options with health centres across the territory. I can't go into details on it right now, Mr. Speaker. I do know that Arviat has the equivalent physician hours to full time. I know that's not a physician in the community 365 days a year, but the physician days are equivalent to full time. I know that's not the answer the member is looking for, but I do want to at this point just basically again ask for some more patience. We do have some plans and options that we're looking at internally to see how the staffing levels of all health centres could be looked at to provide better care overall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Question 599 – 5(2): Financial Transparency

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Finance and concern the matter of financial transparency.

Over the last two years during our committee meetings I have repeatedly asked the Minister of Finance as well as his predecessor about increasing the level of transparency with respect to the financial accounts of the Government of Nunavut. To date I have seen no progress towards this end, so I will pose my questions publicly.

Across Canada and developed countries, government financial statements include a section for management discussion and analysis, which provides an objective and easily readable analysis of the government's financial activities and overall performance.

I would like to ask: why is it that Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada that does not include an easily readable analysis of the government's financial activities and overall performance in our public accounts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the member's persistence in raising this issue. We all want higher level reporting, we want to make sure that people understand our fiscal actions, our plans, our results.

We are working and I have been working with my officials on looking at

different models across the country on reporting requirements. I know we are meeting the minimum threshold or the threshold for financial reporting according to our *Financial Administration Act*. That being said; can we do better? That's what we're looking into. The member has brought it up a couple of times and I have been asking my staff about different options that might be available.

Again, we talk about capacity in a lot of the departments. When you're in a central agency, when you're providing financial support to all the departments across the government, it does stretch our staff kind of thin sometimes and the day-to-day stuff takes them away from some of these side projects that we want to make improvements on.

Again, we are discussing different options going forward, and I haven't tabled my public accounts yet this sitting and I do plan to do so, so maybe there will be some amendments to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really do look forward to the day that we do provide a thorough analysis attached to our public accounts.

I'll move on to my next question. Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that the public has grown accustomed to our current situation where no financial information is provided until the government tables its public accounts.

Mr. Speaker, the public has a right to know more about how the Government

of Nunavut is spending public money and should be receiving regular updates on how our government is performing. While we show no progress in this area, other governments across Canada are moving towards increasing public disclosure through supplemental fiscal updates.

I would like to ask: will the Minister of Finance commit to producing midyear reports to provide the public with updates on our current year revenue and expenditures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's a little unfair of the member to compare us to other jurisdictions that have much more stable staffing and much more mature governance. We're 20 years old, we're building, we're creating new things every day, and those are the day jobs that our staff are tasked with every day. We do work very hard to make sure that transparency and financial reporting is done to make sure that the public is aware of our situation. It is something I have talked to the department about, about doing more mid-term reviews or mid-term updates on our fiscal situation, and it is something that we are exploring.

Again, I do have to caution the member in comparing us to other jurisdictions at this time. We're building things, we're rewriting legislation, and we're rewriting things all the time. We didn't inherit a cookie-cutter government model like most jurisdictions do have. We're working very hard or my staff is working very hard to make sure that the public is kept up to date on the financial

situation and we're going to continue to do so. Like I said, it is a topic that I have brought up with my staff of doing mid-year reporting, so it's something I'll continue to talk with my staff about. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is absolutely fair to compare our own government, our accountability and transparency to that of others, and I think that it is our duty to ensure that we provide as much accountability and transparency to Nunavummiut as possible.

With that being said, I stated several times to the minister how impressed I am with the degree of transparency demonstrated by the Government of Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia's public accounts go above and beyond presenting the government's aggregate financial position at year-end and it includes supplementary information which reports on all sums paid from the province's general revenue fund through the fiscal year.

I know that our own Community and Government Services produces a procurement activity report, but that is no equivalent to what Nova Scotia produces. For example, the most recent procurement activity report of the Department of Finance listed activities of \$6.8 million while the public accounts for the same fiscal year had a total of other expenditures of \$12 million.

I would like to ask: will the Minister of Finance commit to conducting an analysis of moving towards a level of

financial transparency demonstrated by the Government of Nova Scotia's public accounts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had mentioned in my two earlier responses, I have been talking to my officials since the member has brought this up the first time last year. We are looking at different options and looking at different jurisdictional reporting, Nova Scotia being one of them. I'm not going to sit here today and commit to that, Mr. Speaker. We're still analyzing the level of reporting that other jurisdictions do and what we're capable of doing. I'm not going to promise something that is an empty promise. When I promise something in this House, I'll back it up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Question 600 – 5(2): School Staffing Issues

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the House to our visitors.

Before I begin to ask my question, I do want to say a "happy anniversary" to Bob and Ann Hanson. They're celebrating 53 years of marriage today.

>> *Applause*

Congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education

this time, my neighbour.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this school year, Nunavut's schools faced a number of vacant teaching positions with more than 60 teachers, principals, or vice-principals that were urgently needed in our schools.

Can the minister provide an update on the current status of vacant teaching positions across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. My department, we have been working diligently to fill the vacancies of educators leading up to the opening of the school year this fall and in continuing that, we're trying to improve our recruitment and retention activities not just within Nunavut but outside the territory. Looking at that right now, we were in a better position than last year, I want to say, but the status as of October 11, 2019, we had a total of...I'll just get it here...38.5 Nunavut Teachers Association positions vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response; it kind of leads into my next question. I do recognize that the shortage of teachers, like the shortage of nurses, is a problem across Canada. However, greater efforts must be made to train and recruit educators and teaching

professionals in Nunavut.

Can the minister clarify what specific steps his department is taking to ensure that our students are receiving the level of education that they are entitled to when there is a lack of certified teaching professionals in our schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her follow-up question. We are trying to promote teaching as viable and it is a very valuable profession in the territory. We are trying to recruit our high school [students] coming out of high school and encouraging them to apply for the Teacher Education Program through the college. These are some of the ways we want to plant the seed at the earliest stage possible.

In terms of the specific stuff we try to do to ensure that our vacancies don't impact the school programs for our students, whether it is a vice-principal or principal, sometimes our school staff may reassign one of the teachers to fill in for a certain period of time, but we also use relief substitute teachers for those times when a teacher cannot be found in the immediate time.

Those are some of the things that we're doing, but if there are other ways that the member has for suggesting how we can make that better, we are open to suggestions and we will look at that for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response and kind invitation.

I would like to ask about the formula that the department uses. A number of my colleagues have raised concerns regarding this formula used to determine the number of teaching staff allocated to schools in each school district. Currently the formula is based on the attendance date taken on September 30 of each year.

It has been suggested that the allocation of teaching positions should be based more equitably on the number of students enrolled in the schools or even the number of potential students in a school based on demographic information.

Can the minister provide an update on what steps have been taken to revise the department's current formula for determining the number of teachers allocated to Nunavut's schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. The student-educator ratio formula we use is still under review and we are looking at how we can improve upon this. At this time I don't have a lot of details on an update, but once I do, I will be sure to share it with the member and the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

Question 601 – 5(2): Number of Children in Foster Care in Nunavut and Out-of-Territory

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues and I say “good day” to the people of Pangnirtung.

This afternoon I would like to ask a question regarding something that was talked about yesterday about children who are taken into care through the Department of Family Services. The minister explained yesterday in the House that there were 135 foster parents in Nunavut, and even though it’s very difficult to be a foster parent, I thank them for doing that work. It’s a difficult job, obviously.

Some of the foster children are not all taken care of in Nunavut; some of them have been sent out of Nunavut. I also recognize that those children need to be brought back to Nunavut so that they can know the language and their relatives. The first question I would like to ask the Minister of Family Services is: how many children are taken care of by the Department of Family Services in Nunavut and outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. There are different circumstances where children get fostered. Looking at the ones in Iqaluit and Nunavut, children who need help but don’t need apprehension, there are

some in Iqaluit and Chesterfield Inlet, and the (interpretation ends) foster parents... .

Receiving care is a total of 548 children and youth. The number of children and youth receiving services in their home because sometimes that’s the reality, parents need assistance, is at 147. The number of children and youth in foster care is a total of 318. The number of children and youth in territory placements is 11. The number of children and youth in out-of-territory placement is 72 out of 548.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for explaining that clearly about different foster placements or different programs where children are taken care of by their own family and also outside of Nunavut. There are over 500 children who are being monitored or are under the care of the Department of Family Services.

The ones I would like to ask about are the 72 children and youth in care outside of Nunavut. What sort of support do they get in either language or cultural education? Are they made to be aware of that? Some of them lose their ability to speak Inuktitut. What other supports do they get when they’re outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking

about that. If you all remember, in November and March we hired new client liaison officers and they go visit people's homes. There are two in Edmonton because they have the highest numbers in care there. That person started in November and that person has investigated 40 children. In Ottawa our worker started on March 1 and that person has visited 35 Inuit that are fostered down there. When I went to check with Inuit Tukisigiavik, they go there and meet and make plans on how they're going to visit these children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last question I would like to ask is I know that there are children outside of Nunavut, and the plan has to be to get them back to Nunavut even if it is not right away. What sort of plan does the Department of Family Services have to repatriate them to Nunavut? I know you are lacking foster parents, but what sort of plan is being made so that they can be brought back to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that yes, some of them are born down there. In an emergency, when their mother is in medical trouble, some of them have to stay down there. Some of them are down there for extended periods due to illnesses. I believe there are two children who have gotten better and we are making plans to bring them back. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Question 602 – 5(2): Allocation of New \$25 Million Funding for Teacher Education Program

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for Arctic College.

Yesterday I'm sure the minister heard when I was questioning the Minister of Languages because this affects Arctic College. Mr. Speaker, in early September the federal department of Canadian Heritage announced that it would commit up to \$42 million over a five-year period to support, revitalize, and strengthen Inuktitut in Nunavut. That same announcement indicated that the Government of Nunavut would also invest \$25 million to introduce a new laddered approach to the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

Can the minister clarify what specific amount of Government of Nunavut funding will be invested in this new approach to the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and how those funds will be allocated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The five-year period is to ensure that Inuktitut is taught properly and supported. What he asked

about will be in the amount of \$25 million. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is not my question at all. As I stated, the Government of Nunavut is going to invest \$25 million, which I already know and talked about it yesterday. My question was: how will this money be allocated? I don't think he responded to that. I'll ask this question and I would like a proper response.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have been given the understanding that Nunavut Arctic College will be introducing a new ladder approach with the Nunavut Teacher Education Program by offering a language certificate, a language specialist diploma, and a Bachelor of Education.

Can the minister provide further clarification on what steps will be taken to recruit Nunavummiut into the new Teacher Education Program and whether any new financial supports will be provided to support candidates who sign up to this program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We are committed to meeting the obligations set out in the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Education Act* and to focus on preserving and promoting the revitalization of the use of Inuktitut.

(interpretation) It is still in the planning stages, that \$42 million that we still need to get from the federal government. They were just elected yesterday. The previous federal government had agreed to give us \$42 million, but we don't know yet when we will be receiving it because they just got elected yesterday. We are expecting that money, but we don't know when we are getting it.

We are working hard to promote language preservation. Also, we want to ensure teachers are taught properly through the Teacher Education Program at the college. We might see teachers that can teach in Inuktitut properly if the funding goes ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear that the Inuktitut language has been finally recognized by them.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the minister has spoken with the college's board and his counterparts in Nunavut's departments of Education and Culture and Heritage regarding the college's role in preparing Nunavummiut to fill the desperate need for Inuktitut-speaking Inuit educators.

Can the minister describe Nunavut Arctic College's long-term plan to train and prepare enough truly bilingual educators to make Nunavut's education system successful in producing bilingual Inuktitut-speaking high school graduates? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member who is asking the question is a former minister, so he knows very well about Arctic College and he worked hard. I know that the member built the foundations that Inuktitut education is based on now. We want to support and protect our language, and whenever he wants to be understood properly, he speaks English, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

Question 603 – 5(2): Taloyoak School

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I had the privilege of being first in asking questions thrice. Today, though I find myself in a precarious spot, I still have questions to ask.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

I am still happy regardless.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

First, I would like to show my appreciation because Kugaaruk has a new school. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my member's statement, our youth need good and adequate space in which to receive a good education. I have asked this question a number of times since being elected as MLA.

Can the minister provide an update on the plans for a new school in Taloyoak? I would like to get that information,

hence my question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question regarding his constituency. Mr. Speaker, the Netsilik School is something we tried to preplan for as we know it is at 90 to 91 percent utilization rate, looking at the overall size of the facility and the enrolled student numbers in the school. These are not the only challenges we face as other schools in Nunavut are also at that utilization rate or much higher.

I did receive correspondence from the Taloyoak District Education Authority chair, and they want the progress of the project to be widely understood. To date we're in the planning stage and from last year and two years ago, in 2017-18, we've had meetings along with the Department of Community and Government Services. We're still seeking funding to expand Taloyoak's school in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for stating that. Mr. Speaker, the number of students in our communities is used to determine whether a school will be expanded. We know this.

Mr. Speaker, the year 2020 is rolling in

very fast. We are running out of time. Can the minister tell me and my constituents when the department is planning to begin construction on a new school for Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. When schools are running out of space, we start planning, looking at the size of the school, how old the infrastructure is, as well as the interior components of the school to see if they're in order, and the utilization rate. We review those different factors when we're planning and perhaps if the school has to be expanded or if they're supposed to get a new school, we plan for that.

However, we have to request for additional funding through the Legislative Assembly. With so many schools that have to be expanded or aging or those that require renovation, I can say there are ten schools at about 85 percent utilization or greater. Taloyoak is also at this threshold, but we can't work on all the communities at once. We try to move forward with some of the projects due to the lack of funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that adequate response. It's quite clear. However, as I said earlier, the population in our communities is growing rapidly. We need to ensure we

keep up with the growing population, the policies and our schools or even other programs that depend on per capita numbers. Due to this reason, I am asking about projects within Nunavut for infrastructure purposes that regular Inuit cannot complete, as we all know. As the minister stated earlier, there are many projects that are all looking for qualified workers and funding is set aside for construction.

Can the minister respond to my question about the job numbers for major projects when they are required to use the percent, as ministers were changed, and they are trying to attain the 85 percent Inuit employment within Nunavut to be representative of our population? Members also want to see that reached. Can the minister inform us, if the school is going to be constructed in Taloyoak, if CGS can ensure more Inuit will be employed within this capital project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. I agree with my colleague. With capital projects, whether it is a school or any other kind of infrastructure, we do want to see more Inuit employed. The Department of Community and Government Services deals with contracting and they ask the contractors to see how more Inuit can be employed. I will try to work with the Minister of CGS and his officials. For example, when they built the school in Kugaaruk, they employed a lot of Inuit and that was good to see. I will continue to support the inclusion of higher

numbers of Inuit for employment. I also support my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Member Qamaniq.

Question 604 – 5(2): Family Violence Shelters

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said I would be asking questions when we were on members' statements.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, during the minister's statement, the family services minister had stated, "Our government works to address family violence through community-level support and funding towards family violence shelters."

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Family Services: how many safe shelters are there in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. Violence is increasing. I am pleased to get questions on that. There are currently five shelters in Nunavut. There is the YWCA-Agvik here in Iqaluit, (interpretation ends) the St. Michael's family violence shelter in Cambridge Bay, the crisis intervention centre in Kugluktuk, Tammaaqtarvik Women's Centre in Kugaaruk, and the

Kataujaq Society Safe Shelter in Rankin Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: how much funding is dedicated to funding safe shelters in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For 2019-2020, we have allocated \$2,780,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But of the total, \$320,000 has been spent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Will the Department Family Services increase the budget, as all Nunavut communities do not have family violence shelters, and this includes Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We encourage communities when they need services to apply. There is a form that we can certainly provide you, but the only thing is that we don't build the

facilities. It is a partnership where there might be a facility in your community and not-for-profit societies, most of the time, are the ones that operate the shelters. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

Question 605 – 5(2): Staff Housing Allocations

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Human Resources.

As the minister is aware, a new staff housing five-plex is scheduled to be constructed in Sanikiluaq next to the community's much-needed new health centre, which is currently under construction.

As the minister will recall, I wrote correspondence to him and two of his colleagues in June of this year. In my correspondence I noted the importance of ensuring that frontline health workers, such as nurses, are all housed together near the health centre in order to ensure that they are able to respond quickly to emergencies and when on after-hours call-outs. As I have noted on numerous occasions, putting them in the current staff housing location in the community is not a good option given its distance from the new health centre.

Mr. Speaker, although the ministers of Health and Housing replied to my correspondence, I have not yet heard back from the Minister of Human Resources. Can he assure me that I will receive a formal reply in writing before

the end of this fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. I want to first thank my colleague for giving me a nice tour of the community. We had a good look at where the new hospital is and where the new five-plex is going to be. I heard very clearly from my colleague how important it is for the health centre staff to be located as close to the health centre as possible. I believe that it should be like that as much as possible because it is a matter of life and death a lot of times. When we live in communities where storms usually happen, it would be nice to be in close proximity, especially in terms of the medical staff and the health centre.

I would like to assure my colleague that yes, we will have a response to that letter and it will be much the same as the two previous letters he has received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that the minister's answer to my questions today will be reflected in his formal reply.

Although both ministers of Health and Housing confirmed to me in writing that priority for the new units will be given to medical professionals, it is not the same as a guarantee that a certain number of

units will be set aside for only health care professionals. I still see a risk that vacant units in the five-plex could be given to positions in other departments.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the Minister of Human Resources to provide me with a clear commitment today that he will work with the ministers of Health and Housing to ensure that at a number of units in the new five-plex will be set aside only for nurses. Is he willing to give me this commitment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Health and safety are given a high priority in consideration when they are allocating housing units to government employees who require housing.

I am sure that when the allocation committee reviews the requests from the Department of Health in terms of wanting some of those five-plex units allocated to the health department, the issues and the considerations I gave, I am sure, will be considered and priority will be given to allocate those houses to the health care professionals that work in the health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Giving consideration and priority is not the same as giving a commitment that the units will be allocated.

Currently in Sanikiluaq there are three

units which are dedicated to health care staff and these units are quite far from the health centre, as the minister saw himself when he was in the community. All I am asking is to have these dedicated units transferred to the new five-plex which will be located near the new health centre. This will ensure that health care professionals will be in a better position to respond to emergencies. Will the minister commit to looking at this common-sense approach to these units for the health care professionals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the will of this government is to make sure that, in this case, accommodations are provided to those most in need. It appears in conversations with my colleague that the health centre staff would be best located in that five-plex. I'm not going to commit to saying that those units will be assigned to them. There are other parameters at play. There are priorities and other policies we have to follow through, but I will come short of committing it to them. I'm sure that the department and staff that are looking at assignment of those units will be very closely considered and my colleague's questions and demands will be given close scrutiny. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. I will recognize for the second time the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Question 606 – 5(2): Iqaluit Boarding Home Concerns

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on some of the issues that my colleague raised regarding the policies at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, an important societal value that we hold in Nunavut is to respect and honour our elders, yet I have heard that the Iqaluit boarding home operates on a first-come, first-served policy when it comes to allocating rooms. This occasionally leaves elders without a designated room.

While I do appreciate that efforts are made and other patients have been asked to give up their room when an elder comes into the facility, I can also see how this can lead to some complicated and awkward situations.

Can the minister provide a clear explanation of what the boarding home policy is when it comes to assigning rooms to elders who come to Iqaluit for medical care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever an elder is arriving at the boarding home here in Iqaluit, they are prioritized. There are certain rooms that have different mobility accessibility. There are different rooms that are better suited for elders that they

do their best to make sure that elders are placed in those rooms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It just makes me wonder a little bit. If people are already in those rooms, do they take the residents out to put an elder in or not? There are probably some follow-up questions I'll be having.

I would also like to talk about another issue that deals with Tammaativvik boarding and that is that I have heard that overcrowding, like yesterday my colleague talked about overcrowding, that Tammaativvik suffers from overcrowding and that patients are being asked to find billets. In fact just yesterday the minister asked the indulgence of this House to encourage medical travel clients to ask their friends and family if they would be interested in billeting.

However, a number of my constituents are extremely frustrated at the length of time it takes to get paid for providing billeting services. They are not paid upfront and it costs a lot of money to buy food and to provide space for people who come here for medical care. Some have been waiting for months. Can the minister clearly explain what process should be followed in order that individuals providing billets to medical travel clients can receive their cheque in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can understand why there's maybe a little bit of confusion around this topic. There are two different streams. If you're travelling down from a community and you know you're going to be coming here for a medical appointment and you arrange to stay with a friend or family, the billeting is paid through the Department of Health. When you're travelling and you're in the boarding home and you tell them that you're overextended and they provide a billet, they provide the payment to those billets.

This matter has recently come to my attention and I have directed staff to have discussions with Tammaativvik to find ways to streamline the payment process. I totally agree with the member that when you're taking people into your home and providing food and shelter, there are increased costs associated with that. We want to make sure that we promote this as an opportunity for people to stay with friends and family and for them to be reimbursed appropriately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his response. It's not often we agree 100 percent on an issue, so this is good to hear.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of concerns with respect to the constant overcrowding at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home in Iqaluit. Can the minister tell us if he has personally spoken with the contractor about this

issue and what discussions he has had, if any, regarding the new infrastructure that is being built just across the street from the boarding home and how it will be used to alleviate this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anytime offsite accommodations are needed from the boarding home, it is their responsibility to find the suitable accommodations. With the hotels opening up in the near future in the city here, I am hoping that will alleviate some of the pressure. Myself I haven't spoken directly to the ownership group recently on that topic *per se*.

I know that back originally when they were planning the development of the facility, I believe the ownership is related or they're same owners or something, so with the Discovery they have opened up some of those rooms there and I know that they do look at other hotel accommodations around the city. As the increased rooms become available, I'm hoping some of that overflow won't be so challenging. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, I note that the time for question period has expired. Before we proceed, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request support of my colleagues to return to Item No. 5 on the order paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is asking to go back to Item 5. Do you

agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my member's statement today I talked about the upcoming municipal election and I took the time to thank our outgoing Mayor Madeleine Redfern and the council at the City of Iqaluit. I was hoping that Her Worship would be in the House when I made that statement. Hopefully she will have some time to look it up in the *Blues* when it comes out or in *Hansard*.

I would like to formally welcome Madeleine Redfern, our current Mayor of the City of Iqaluit. I again want to strongly encourage people to go out and vote, but I want to thank Her Worship for all the work her and her council have done. I had listed off a number of different advances that the city has accomplished over her tenure, and I look forward to further workings with the City of Iqaluit, but I would like to thank Madeleine Redfern for her time. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Always feel welcome in your Legislative Assembly.

I wish to inform members that the time for question period has expired, but (interpretation ends) when members are asking questions to ministers and when

ministers are replying, please be respectful to each other and avoid cheap shots.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Continuing on with the orders of the day. Written Questions. There are none. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Returns to Written Questions. There are none. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 201 – 5(2): Child and Family Services Act 2018-2019 Annual Report

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am tabling today the Child and Family Services 2018-19 Annual Report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Continuing on. Notices of Motions. Continuing on. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 35 – Medical Profession Act – First Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 35, *Medical Profession Act*, be read for the

first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Second Reading of Bills. Continuing on. Consideration in Committee of the Whole. Bills 30, 31, 32, and 33 with Member Angnakak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:19 and
Committee resumed at 15:38

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

Chairperson (Ms. Angnakak): Good afternoon, everybody. Thank you for coming back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 30, 31, 32, and 33. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We wish to continue with the review of the 2020-21 capital appropriations for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we all in agreement that we will deal with Bill 30 first?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2020-2021 – Nunavut Housing
Corporation – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairperson: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Netser: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, definitely, (interpretation ends) please. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Netser, can you please introduce your officials. Thank you.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On my right is Terry Audla, President of the Housing Corporation, and on my left is Ji Liu, our chief financial officer. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Netser. We are on page L-3 of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The next person on my list is Mr. Quassa. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome. First of all, I would like to ask this question. Some tenants are elders and usually they have children living in their homes, and

the house maybe rented by an elder who has recently passed away, with the lease being under their name. If an elder passes away, what happens to the children who also occupy that house? Is the lease transferred from the name of the elder to their children, or does the local housing organization take it back? That is my first question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. (interpretation ends) I would like to remind you that that question does not pertain to capital. We are talking about the capital budget, but I would like to ask the minister if he or officials, for this question, would be willing to answer that question. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank him for the question. We can answer it. When an elder is renting one of our units and if they should die, if there is no other renter's name on the lease, then they would have to vacate the house. I would suggest that if an elder is renting one of our units, one of the other occupants, whether their children or otherwise, ensure they include their name on the lease so they can stay in the house. If the elder is the one and only person on the lease, then the unit has to be returned to the local housing organization according to the policy. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. (interpretation ends) Just to remind everybody, we are looking at the Nunavut Housing Corporation capital estimates 2020-21, so your questions should be pertaining to L-3. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for that response. The question I had referred to housing.

Moving on to another subject, I don't know whether this question was asked here while I was absent from the House, but I believe I have mentioned it before and it is the housing allocation methodology. With that being the case, it was noticeable in my community of Igloolik that for this year and the upcoming year, even though there was a large number of people on the waiting list in 2016, looking at it from 2018-19 to 2020-21, there was a drastic change.

I'm sure that my colleague had explained it, but just using this for example, Pond Inlet had an increase of 155 percent, Nauyasat had an increase of 134 percent, but Igloolik had a decline of about 54 percent. I went to the local housing organization to look at the waiting list and there was no change.

My first question is: do you know the exact number of people on the waiting list in each community? Do you have a close working relationship with the local housing organizations? That's my first question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank him for that question. When we're looking at the number of houses to be constructed that would be going to the communities, we work closely with the local housing organizations. In Igloolik they received 20 housing units. After the

20 housing units were built, the waiting list decreased, obviously because people moved into those units. Madam Chairperson, usually there are some people who move to another community and that is also factored in. Perhaps the people who haven't applied for housing in Igloolik applied after the housing units were constructed.

The president would like to make a supplement to my response. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On a year-to-year basis the wait-list will be adjusted to reflect whether or not there has been construction in that community. You will see, like the minister said, if they constructed in that community, then that wait-list goes down based on the number of new units built. You will see that fluctuation on a year-to-year basis.

We always encourage the LHOs to ensure that they send us the most accurate number based on the actual people who put in applications, and then we review those and make sure that there's accuracy in them. It's always incumbent on the LHOs to ensure that they give us the most accurate number of applicants within that community. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Audla. (interpretation ends) Mr. Quassa, before I let you ask your next question, we have a bit of a confession that we didn't stop the clock, the time, so we're not going to start the clock. We're going to leave it the way it is while you're asking your question just

to make up for that. I do apologize. Mr. Quassa, you're on.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I didn't realize that, but I did notice someone mentioning that yesterday.

When I looked at the true numbers at the local housing association, we received a letter on September 12 from the chairperson of the housing corporation and it identified how much money they're going to set aside for 2020-21 and for 2021-22.

The substantiation sheet indicates how much they have set aside, but it doesn't look accurate. As I stated, I went to the local housing organization in Igloolik to look at the true numbers of the people on the waiting list and to see if the numbers that the housing corporation had were accurate. For 2020-21, they are not going to be constructing even one house.

I am asking the question because I was informed by the minister in a letter on September 12, 2019, and it's not true and I don't believe it. I went to the local housing organization and the waiting list has increased. I don't think I can approve this budget with these numbers. Can the minister retract that letter from the housing corporation because it has an effect on the number of houses that are going to be built in a particular community? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Netser, can you respond?

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you Madam Chairperson. With

the money we request, we are not using inaccurate documents. Our colleague is saying that it is not true. I can respond by saying that we allocate funds based on the statistics we get from the communities and we work with the local housing organizations. The communities that have the highest numbers of people on the waiting list are given priority.

However, when you are accused of lying within this House, Madam Chairperson, it is very uncomfortable, as these funds are not for frivolous reasons and the members have to approve the overall amounts, and they would have to approve what they stated was based on a lie. That is my perspective on that comment, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. (interpretation ends) I would like, as Chair, to caution Mr. Quassa to use your words carefully; they could be taken the wrong way. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I indicated earlier, I did go to the local housing organization to look at the proper numbers. The people on the waiting list have been increasing. You have very different numbers here. I am hearing one thing from one side and another on another side, but there is a big difference between the numbers that the local housing organization has and the numbers that the local housing corporation has.

Looking at both sides, they are very different. Then based on those numbers you request X amount of dollars to be used for the housing construction. We

know that it is not going to be enough because of the discrepancies in numbers between the corporation and the local housing organization. Can you review the numbers first before we approve the budget requested by the housing corporation? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Whenever we're going to be allocating housing units to communities, we do review which community has the highest number on the waiting list and we grant the houses to those communities because we have a limited budget. Those people who never signed up for a public housing unit become eligible to apply when they turn 19 years of age. Perhaps some of those people who never tried before end up applying. Maybe that is why the numbers were different. The number changes every day in the communities.

The housing allocation methodology that we use, I believe, is adequate and we're going to continue to use it. It's regretful that some communities will become unhappy. We know that many of them have been waiting for a long time and some of them haven't seen a new public housing unit built in their community for many years. We work hard because of the limitations of funding to try to get houses built in the communities using the best methodology that we know of. Madam Chairperson, that's how I can respond to it.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I believe I understand properly now. If they forgot to reapply, then they would just be forgotten by the housing corporation. That's my understanding. Whoever didn't sign up or who didn't go check again with the local housing association or organization, they are going to be forgotten. The minister is quite aware that Igloolik has the highest number of people in the Baffin region outside of Iqaluit. That's why I'm asking the minister again.

The money that they're requesting is less than what is necessary. Can the minister reconsider this as my question? We're going to have to approve this money, so I want it based on truthful facts. We need to believe the numbers in order to approve the amounts for capital projects within our communities. They need to be true. Further, members carefully review the figures when it impacts our representative communities and whether the written figures are correct. We also conduct our research on that, as these are our communities.

Will the budget proposal stay the same? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, we try to produce accurate documents when we're allocating houses to the communities. We try to keep everything accurate and we work with the local housing organizations. On March 31, 2019 the numbers were reviewed for the coming year. The communities that will be getting new houses will be the

communities that have the most people on the waiting list. I hope that made sense. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Quassa, are you done? Okay. Mr. Keyootak would also like to ask questions. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): I have a question when we get to page 4.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are on page L-3. You can ask your question. Yes, it includes page 4 as well. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to ask a question on page L-4. The question I would like to ask is: the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2019-2020 capital plan includes funding to replace housing units that were damaged by fire in Arviat, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Rankin Inlet. Can you give us an update on the current status of those housing units damaged by fire in those communities? That's my first question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Our fire specialist is also our chief financial officer, so he can respond to the member's question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, member, for

this question. May I ask other than Arviat, what is the other community he was referring to?

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Liu. Just a reminder to say “thank you,” and then they know to switch the mic after you finish talking. (interpretation) Mr. Keyootak, please clarify that for him.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I was asking about the communities of Arviat, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Rankin Inlet. As of today, what is the status of this work for the fire-damaged units? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The list is quite long. For Arviat, we have two units and one unit is planned for replacement and the other unit is planned for repair. The first one planned for replacement, actually the demolition is completed. The construction is completed this year as well. However, the second unit in Arviat is still under repair and it is being planned but hasn't started yet.

In Iqaluit there are nine units on the table. Four demolitions are completed. Sorry, for six of them the demolition is completed. The other three are waiting for repair and for the planning purpose.

For Pond Inlet, there are four units here. Three units are planned for replacement and one unit is planned for repair. The three units planned for replacement, one of them is completed. The second one, we just finished demolition. The third one actually just happened probably a

few months ago, so it was newly added onto the list and we're going to have to plan for the construction for the next year. The fourth one for repair is estimated at \$5,000, so that would be an in-house job by the local housing authority if they have the capacity. If not, then we will provide support as well.

For Qikiqtarjuaq, we have one unit planned for replacement and the estimated funding is \$600,000. Currently 25 percent is completed. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Liu. (interpretation) Mr. Keyootak, do you have any other questions? Are you done? (interpretation ends) Okay, I'm going to recognize a member that has already asked questions and give him one question. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) How many minutes did you say? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: I said one question. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) My colleague from Aggu was asking regarding this letter from the chair of the housing corporation, and I think it is clear that these waiting list numbers that the housing corporation is using are not accurate.

I'll just use Igloolik as an example. They mentioned, “Why did the waiting list go down?” The response was that the housing corporation has built units in the community, so the waiting list went

down. The waiting list between 2018 and 2019, the adjusted numbers, that's a drop of about 90 people on the waiting list and I don't believe the housing corporation has built 90 housing units in that community, so that's just an example.

I think what would be appropriate, given these questions around the waiting list numbers and how accurate they are, in my opinion, would be that the minister commit to going back and taking another look at how you have allocated these numbers and then making a decision as to how you are going to adjust the proposed construction report.

That wouldn't require a change in the budget, in my understanding. It would simply require the housing corporation to go back and adjust this planned construction list. You don't have to change the budget. I think this request is reasonable and I would like to sit here and vote in favour of this, but if these adjustments aren't going to be made, then I will echo my colleague's comments that we want to be making decisions based on good information and if we know that we don't have good information, then it's up to us whether or not to vote in favour of something or vote to delete something.

My question is: can the minister commit to going back with his officials, looking at this methodology, and making some revisions, if the minister decides to, to this proposed construction report? That's my one question. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser, would you like to answer the question?

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Could I have five minutes with the staff to discuss this before I answer it? Is it okay? Thank you.

Chairperson: Okay, we will take a five-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 16:10 and resumed at 16:17

Chairperson: Thank you. Everybody is back from their five-minute break. Before I hand over the mic to Minister Netser, I would like to encourage all members to use expressions like "accurate" or "inaccurate" when debating facts or numbers rather than expressions like "true" or "false," if possible. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) As I said earlier, when we allocate which community is going to have the units built, we have the methodology where we get the numbers on March 31 of each year and then the following year the community will be allocated these units. Now, we do not give units based on the current number. The current number has to be vetted by the NHC and some applicants may not be eligible for a unit. The numbers that the member has will be vetted the following year, and then from that number we will allocate units. That's how the methodology works. We can only look at it the following year, March 31. We have committed to looking at those numbers the following year. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify, the minister committed to looking at the numbers the following year. Just to clarify, these proposed construction report numbers which are based on the wait-list, which may be inaccurate or have a good chance of being inaccurate, so maybe just clarify: will this be revised or not? I guess that would be the easiest way to clarify it. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Minister Netser, please respond.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry for not being clear. The current numbers that the member from Aggu has is from last month, but when we allocate units, we've got the numbers from March 31, 2019. Now, next year based on the numbers that we got from March 31 will be used to determine which community gets how many units. The numbers that the member has were from last month. They have to be vetted by the NHC and then from that, some applicants may not be eligible for a unit. That's how the system works. I just wanted to clarify that and that's how it's going to be. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: I think my deputy head wanted to elaborate a little bit more on that if you will allow him. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If we were to adjust based on month to month, it would be a very difficult exercise for us to try to nail down which communities have what need. We encourage all the LHOs to make sure that their numbers are accurate, and then within a given period of time up to March 31 we vet what we receive from the LHO.

Now, if someone says, "Well, the numbers I was given in July aren't accurate compared to what you provided us," and those are numbers that were vetted the previous March, so obviously there's going to be some variance there. Now, for the purposes of ensuring that the accuracy of the actual numbers we receive from the LHOs, we have the districts working alongside with the LHOs to ensure that there are no repeat applications and/or people who are ineligible based on the fact that maybe someone in their household or their spouse had already submitted an application. That's through the vetting process.

Again, the September numbers we receive will be vetted up to March 31 and then that's when we base where the allocation is going to be for new construction. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Audla. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the explanation. I guess we're just not seeing eye to eye on

this. I would like to move that we defer consideration of the housing corporation so that we can move on and consider the other department's capital appropriation. I do understand that housing is very important and it's very important that we have accurate information provided to us. I'll move to defer the housing corporation, please. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Can you indicate if you are making a motion there? Okay. We don't have a copy of the motion, so we will take a five-minute break at this time.

>>Committee recessed at 16:23 and resumed at 16:37

Chairperson: Okay, we're back. I would like to call the meeting to order. The motion has been given to all members. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate to the motion, I have a few comments to make as to the procedures.

Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes.

The mover of the motion speaks first.

The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate.

To the motion. Mr. Main.

**Committee Motion 008 – 5(2):
Deferral of the Consideration of
the Proposed 2020-2021 Capital
Estimates of the Nunavut Housing
Corporation**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you,

Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Do you need me to read the motion or no? (interpretation) No, it is okay?

I move that the consideration of the proposed capital estimates of the housing corporation be deferred. My motion is not to cut the budget, but I'm trying to defer the consideration. Several of us members have not been provided enough detail on the capital estimates and the money requested is a large amount at over \$40 million.

I'm introducing the motion to delay the consideration of the proposed capital estimates and I expect that after full discussion between the members and the housing corporation, the budget will be approved, but without some of us being fully informed, I don't want to approve it and we don't want to cut it. This motion is just a deferral. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I fully support this motion because we have to be presented with accurate information in this House, information that we believe in, especially if we're going to expend large amounts of money. With housing being a priority for all of us, we must have accurate information. With our people going through hardship, we must approve budgets that are accurate. That's why I support the motion. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. (interpretation ends)

To the motion. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you. Yes, it is great that we are discussing this. The housing allocation methodology to communities began in 2013. Since it started in 2013, the member for Arviat North's community had received the most housing construction. Did we make a mistake? We did build a lot of houses in Arviat last summer with 20 housing units. I guess we made a mistake. All committee members have a copy of the methodology from 2019 to 2020. We used that methodology again and we're still using it. Our colleagues disagree with this methodology.

Madam Chairperson, when the government makes plans for housing construction, we construct (interpretation ends) early in the year, (interpretation) as the year begins or once the year is over, we start planning for the following year. The housing corporation is going to have to change the planning for housing construction in the communities.

(interpretation ends) The member insisted on using September's number in this case and we will not be able to have all the materials ready for review by the members today. The regular members have this methodology. We allocate housing to communities based on the methodology that we have been using since 2013. We have been building 20 units this summer in Arviat, the member's community. We used misinformation to build these units at his community? I rest my case. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you Madam Chairperson. As a committee, we dealt with these and it seemed like we approved of them, but once they got here, it looks like they're not adequate.

The housing units are allocated based on the number of people on the waiting list in the communities. The housing units to be constructed have been set, as we have been told clearly, and we have also been told clearly that it's based on the waiting lists from the local housing organizations. We were fully informed.

Why is it now that we are sitting here that what we discussed in committee is now inadequate? Maybe it's because housing units will not be constructed in my colleagues' communities. I will not be supporting the motion, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. To the motion. I wish to inform the committee that I have no more names on my list. Does the mover have any last reply? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) First, I guess I would like to note for the record that I am very appreciative of all the public housing units that the housing corporation has built in my home community, but I think, and for some of us it might be easier than others, sometimes we have to step beyond our own egos and beyond our own little corner of the territory and we have to look at the bigger picture.

I would like to give credit to our research staff because it is all because of them that we can see the whipsawing in the public housing wait-list data. The methodology is good. We should allocate public housing units based on a methodology, but when you have a methodology that is based on flawed numbers or numbers that go up and down one year, one community is up 134 percent, in that same year another community is down 54 percent, and when you have the numbers go up and down, it makes me wonder what is happening behind those numbers.

Is it because a tenant relations officer at the local housing organization leaves their job and then those wait-list applications are no longer being updated, and then as a result, in that case, in that example, the community loses out on public housing units because they lost their tenant relations officer in that year?

An Hon. Member: Point of order, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Order.

Point of Order

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's great to be here. (interpretation ends) My point of order, Madam Chairperson, is that he is using a hypothetical event that a TRO has left a job and the numbers then are fluctuated. That's inexcusable. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Netser. I rule no point of order. He was just giving it as an example, Mr. Netser. Mr. Main, you may continue.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you. I think you can see where I was going. It was an example. Maybe if I was making blanket statements, it would have been a point of order, but I think using examples is useful.

I will point to another example. Igloolik, the wait-list in one year was at 170, and then in this year the adjusted wait-list prepared by the housing corporation is at 78. That's a large number. That's a decrease of 54 percent. In one way that is good because you are addressing the housing shortage.

I will just get back to my original point. The methodology is good. I appreciate houses for my community, but this isn't just about one community; it's about making sure that the whole process is fair to every community. I would encourage all the regular members and the members on the other side of the House to vote in favour of deferring this so that we can a bit more clarity before coming back to this capital budget, and I anticipate eventually passing it. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Main. The debate is now closed. We will now vote on the motion. I am new at this. Sorry. All those in favour, please raise your hand. Okay. All those opposed. I have a tie.

>> *Laughter*

All those abstaining. Could I put my hand up?

>> *Laughter*

Chairperson: Abstained, we have one.

>>*Laughter*

Well, baptism by fire. I think I'm going to vote in favour. I feel that if there is any kind of question to anything that is before us, I think we have the right to figure out what that information is. It's not about blaming or anything like that. It's about just trying to get and understand what the real picture is, so I vote in favour. Thank you.

I was just reminded again; it is true we are going to be coming back to this department, so I have some comfort in that. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I respect the decision of the House and I just want to know when we can meet with the standing committee in terms of this methodology that is in question now. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Netser, once that has been arranged. I think we have to look at the schedule and everything and figure it out, and we will let you know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort out the witnesses. Thank you.

We will take a short break.

>>*Committee recessed at 16:52 and resumed at 17:00*

Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2020-2021 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairperson: Welcome back, everybody. We're now going to do Community and Government Services' capital estimates for the year 2020-21. I would now like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials. Thank you.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my left is Mr. Kyle Seeley, Assistant Deputy Minister, and also to my right, Constance Hourie, the Deputy Minister of the department. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Minister Kusugak, please proceed with your opening comments. Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am here today to review my department's capital estimates plan for fiscal year 2020-21 as part of the proposed five-year capital estimates plan covering the 2020-25 period.

For the 2020-21 fiscal year, the Department of Community and Government Services will continue with the implementation of 14 projects with a total budget of \$30,745,000. Eight of these projects will be funded in full by the Government of Nunavut, including:

- 1) The construction of a new fire hall in Arctic Bay;
- 2) The replacement of two fire trucks (one in Gjoa Haven and one in Kugaaruk);
- 3) Improvements to bulk fuel storage in Gjoa Haven;
- 4) Fuel tank farm compliance projects in Hall Beach, Kimmirut, Clyde River, and Grise Fiord;
- 5) A \$4 million contribution to the City of Iqaluit to address core municipal infrastructure projects;
- 6) \$1 million toward planning studies for projects in the planning envelope. These studies will help ensure all viable options are clearly defined so that reliable cost estimates are available before proceeding further into the capital planning process.
- 7) \$6 million in funding to address small capital needs in the following areas:
 - CGS building and equipment upgrades of \$2,817,000
 - CGS vehicle fleet replacement of \$300,000
 - Petroleum Products Division small capital projects of \$1 million
 - Block funding to non-tax based municipalities of \$883,000
 - Minor projects in communities of

\$1 million; and finally

- 8) \$3.5 million will be spent replacing basic GN communications hardware and systems that are obsolete and cannot be upgraded.

Madam Chairperson, the remainder of my department's 2020-21 capital budget will be committed to projects jointly funded by the federal government through the Low Carbon Economy Fund, also described as LCEF, and the New Building Canada small community funding agreements. These six projects totalling a little over \$9 million include the following:

Under the Low Carbon Emissions Fund:

- \$5,021,000 will be spent for energy efficiency improvement projects as part of the South Baffin Energy Management Plan on government buildings in the communities of Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, and Sanikiluaq. These buildings are owned by the GN and are currently operating well below optimal efficiency, and we fully anticipate a long-term return on this investment.

Under the Small Community Fund:

- \$1,220,000 will go to upgrading community arenas to extend their seasonal use and improve their operational efficiency
- \$550,000 will be used to address maintenance upgrades to the Rankin Inlet Utilidor System
- \$2,209,000 will be directed toward planning for solid waste projects to ensure solid waste sites in our community landfills have the

capacity to meet community needs and are compliant with regulatory requirements

- Lastly, under the Small Communities Fund \$95,000 will be allocated toward key staff positions essential to administering the Small Communities Fund.

Madam Chairperson, within the context of federally funded projects, I would like to make a special reference to the recent announcement by the federal government for \$151 million under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure project regarding the fibre optic cable project approved last year in this House. Madam Chairperson, this fibre project is only one of several major infrastructure initiatives our government is working on to improve the quality of life in our communities.

Over the next year, as we move forward on the projects presented for this year's capital plan, we will also continue our planning work for other key projects, such as elders' care facilities, an addictions treatment centre, improvements to airports, and delivering on a substantial list of federally funded projects. These projects demonstrate a concerted effort to meet our Pivaallirutivut commitment to investing in infrastructure that enhances our well-being as individuals, and connecting Nunavummiut to one another and the rest of Canada.

I'll be ready to entertain questions at your convenience, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Does the chair of the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year is \$31,745,000. This represents a decrease of approximately 20 percent from its 2019-2020 capital budget.

The department's 2019-2020 capital estimates included a significant amount of funding for the government's new Fibre Infrastructure Project. Although the department's proposed 2020-21 capital estimates do not include any funding for this project during the upcoming fiscal year, additional amounts are projected to be spent between the 2021-22 and 2023-24 fiscal years. On August 19, 2019 the federal Minister of Rural Economic Development announced that "The Government of Canada is investing over \$151 million in this project under the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream (RNIS) of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan." Information published by the federal government indicates that the total cost of this project will exceed \$200.0 million. The extent to which this project will benefit communities and residents outside of the capital remains an issue of concern to a number of members.

The department's proposed 2020-21 capital estimates include funding for the City of Iqaluit Contribution Agreement, which provides block funding for infrastructure. Information provided by

the department indicates that the current agreement expires on March 31, 2023. The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on how this funding has been spent.

The department's proposed 2020-21 capital estimates include funding for a number of planning studies. Members continue to express concerns about the process by which the government determines which specific projects to include in its list of planning studies, including concerns regarding the extent to which the process reflects the priorities that municipalities have identified in their integrated community sustainability plans. During the summer of 2019 the department undertook an integrated community sustainability plan tour to a number of communities.

The standing committee encourages the minister to table information in the Legislative Assembly concerning the results of this exercise, including any specific changes made to the government's capital planning process. The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the status of ongoing and completed planning studies.

In June 2018 the Legislative Assembly approved \$24,258,000 in capital carryovers for its Kivalliq Energy Management Program, which is a component of the government's Nunavut Energy Management Program. A \$17,122,100 capital carryover for this project was approved in June 2019. The 2018 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly on*

Climate Change in Nunavut indicated that "The program uses private-sector firms to conduct energy retrofits to government buildings, using future energy savings to repay the cost of the retrofits. The program set two objectives: a 20% reduction in energy consumption and an associated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions." The department's proposed 2020-21 capital estimates include funding for its South Baffin Energy Management Project, which is also a component of the Nunavut Energy Management Program. The standing committee notes that the government issued a request for proposals for a North Baffin energy management program on August 3, 2018. The standing committee encourages the minister to provide ongoing updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of these initiatives, including the timetable for their expansion into the Kitikmeot.

The department's 2019-2020 capital estimates included funding for projects included in Solid Waste Bundle 2. Its proposed 2020-21 capital estimates include funding for projects in bundles 1 and 3. The department has issued a number of requests for proposals for solid waste management feasibility studies in recent years for the communities of Arviat, Clyde River, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Rankin Inlet, Resolute Bay, Sanikiluaq, Taloyoak, and Whale Cove. The standing committee encourages the minister to make the results of these feasibility studies publicly available at the earliest opportunity.

On March 28, 2018 the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut issued a joint news release concerning

the signing of a bilateral agreement under the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The announcement indicated that Nunavut will receive up to \$566,761,000 over the ten-year period between 2018 and 2028. On January 3, 2019 the Government of Nunavut submitted the initial version of its long-term infrastructure plan to the Government of Canada. The standing committee encourages the minister to table a copy of the updated plan in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest practicable opportunity.

The department's 2018-19 and 2019-2020 capital estimates included funding for a significant number of projects related to water and wastewater. The current business plan for the Department of Community and Government Services indicates that one of its priorities has been to "Initiate the development of a drinking water strategy framework." The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area, including the work of the Territorial Water Advisory Group. Members remain concerned about the frequency of boil water advisories and other water quality situations in a number of communities.

The department's proposed 2020-21 capital estimates include funding for a number of small capital projects. The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the department's actual expenditures in this area. The standing committee notes that the department's Minor Capital Block Funding Policy expired on March 31, 2018 and looks forward to the policy being updated in consultation with

Nunavut's municipalities. The standing committee also looks forward to progress being made with respect to the department's Parking Garage Construction Program, which the standing committee has been advised is under development.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members expressed a number of concerns regarding the extent to which the NNI Policy has been achieving its goals. The standing committee notes that sections 12.1 and 12.2 of the NNI Policy require the NNI Policy Review Committee, which is composed of representatives from both the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, to "...review the implementation of the NNI Policy on a periodic basis" and to "...meet on a quarterly basis..." The standing committee encourages this body to produce reports on its work that can be tabled in the Legislative Assembly for the information of all members.

Subsequent to the minister's appearance before the standing committee, the Financial Management Board approved the inclusion of a new "Municipal Green Infrastructure Program" into the department's 2020-21 capital estimates. The stated purpose of the program is to provide \$3.0 million over three years to "...assist municipalities with infrastructure projects aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation."

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Do any members have general comments? General comments? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I just wanted to applaud the Department of CGS. I am extremely grateful for the last-minute inclusion of the municipal alternative energy program. I can't explain how happy I am to see this. I just wanted to express my appreciation. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Is there anybody else that would like to provide general comments? Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, that was interesting. Well, it would be very interesting and I'm sure that there will be more detailed information available in regard to the elders, which we have brought up frequently, but in English it's talking about when there's an "s" it means that it's plural and not towards one subject, so you're looking at the different programs for the elders. It's not only for one program. I wanted to point that out, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Any more members would like to comment? General comments? If not, Community and Government Services. J-3. Local Government Services. \$27,595,000, as the late Joe would say. Questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Minister, welcome, as well as your officials. (interpretation

ends) How many of the projects proposed in this year's budget will require a training plan to be developed in cooperation with Family Services? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the delay. Any plans that require construction and that will be brought through with the... I believe my colleague is referring to the comments I made about creating employment plans with new and upcoming infrastructure projects. We are looking to build that into our system and we are working on finalizing how we would do that, but I don't have a finite number of how many of them will be like that. I hope all those that fit into that envelope that I had referred to during question period earlier in the week would fit into that category, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I believe the minister understands the importance of this to many people. We would like our government to be more aware of the lack of employment opportunities, but I am happy to hear that they are doing something about it.

(interpretation ends) When it comes to this new program, which is the Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund, it says on the substantiation sheet that this funding will provide up to \$500,000 per project. I would just like a bit more

clarity around: will it be provided in terms of a forgivable loan, will it be a grant, or will it be a contribution? How is the money going to end up with the municipalities? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank my colleague. I completely agree with my colleague that whenever the government creates jobs through one of its contracts, we have to involve the most number of Inuit that we can and not just involve them but to also train them so that they can progress in their job. That's what we have to do and that's what we will try to do. I am glad that my colleague agrees with me on that.

However, in terms of how this money will be accessed by hamlets, it will be set up through proposals. Any hamlet that wants to access funds from this program will have to submit a proposal and inform us of how it is going to be used, such as using less fuel. The local hamlets can request funding of up to \$500,000 each from this program. Once they submit a proposal, we can assist them. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I am reading the substantiation sheet and I understand that the program isn't actually put together yet, but it's to be

done. On page 2, right about in the middle of the page, it says, "These types of projects are usually energy efficiency or alternative energy projects that aim to reduce..." I won't read the rest of it. I just want to confirm that energy generation equipment, whether it is wind turbines or solar panels, that that would be an eligible expense under this program. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, those types of things would be eligible and can be included in the proposals. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I second my colleague in expressing that what you have presented is very good and I'm happy about it.

I represent two communities, Arviat and Whale Cove. Both communities are waiting for a new fire hall. It sounded like something was going to be done about them and I would like (interpretation ends) just a status update. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Are you talking about actual buildings that

are fire halls, Mr. Main, or are you talking about firefighting equipment like fire trucks? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main, please clarify that.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, (interpretation ends) fire halls. (interpretation) That's what I'm asking about, the buildings. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The fire halls for the two communities are in the planning stages. We are currently prioritizing community infrastructure projects. The two communities that the member is asking about are in the planning stages, but I can't say right now where they are in the planning stages. Once they are completed and once we know when construction can start, I can inform my colleague. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The communities that I represent are tired of waiting for the fire halls, and we understood that the lots were going to be surveyed. I don't understand what is stalling the project. I would like to know when construction can start. (interpretation ends) I'm looking for a date when construction would be started based under the current

plans. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Right now Arctic Bay and Kugaaruk are having their fire halls constructed. At this time we are planning for fire halls for his two communities. As to when construction would start, once we know what day or year the construction will begin, I can let the member know. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I'm trying to get through my list of things here. In terms of the water treatment plant for Whale Cove, if the minister could provide an update on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): For Whale Cove, at the moment there is a portable water treatment plant that is going to be used there in the interim. While I was having discussions with the councillors this summer, I went and looked at the new water treatment equipment in Whale Cove. We are aware that it can only operate during the summertime, but we are currently working on something that can be utilized throughout the year. It will be worked on this winter in Whale Cove so

that they can have a proper water treatment plant, not just a seasonal one. Thank you Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's very good to hear that construction may start next year because the residents of Whale Cove have been expecting it for a while. The minister is aware of that.

(interpretation ends) I have a question about this most recently completed arena in Rankin Inlet. It's my understanding that it is a project that went over budget. There are a number of factors that have been cited on that. I was wondering if the department would be able to provide like a written summary, not right now, but maybe for tomorrow in terms of what was your original budget, what were the different factors that increased the costs because there were change orders, I believe, the NNI Policy came into play, and I'm not sure if there were other things related to issues with the site.

(interpretation) Can you provide a letter from CGS? We would like to know about this. I'm not using Rankin Inlet as the reasoning, but when capital projects go over budget, it's worrisome as an MLA. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I understand where my colleague is coming from. Yes, before the end of this

sitting, we can put together an explanation of what avenues they went through to construct the arena. With respect to the change orders that he is asking about, yes, before the end of the sitting, we can provide that information in a letter. It won't be today, but I can provide that through correspondence. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qirngnuq, you are next.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome to the minister and your officials.

Although I was contemplating asking a question while colleagues asked their questions and I believe it may have been touched on, firstly I want to comment that with the prepared documents, there is room for improvement. In the first page of your opening remarks, under number one and two, regarding the two fire trucks identified for replacement in Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk, I would like clarification.

Yes, there's some kind of technicality as my light went off.

How old are the fire trucks before they are replaced with new fire trucks? I would like to understand that, so that's my first question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. I'm sorry for accidentally turning the mic off. It wasn't on purpose. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question. The

fire trucks have a listed lifecycle of 20 years, at which time they need to be replaced and there is another five years after their replacement where the trucks supplement the new fire trucks, providing assistance and support for the new equipment. That is the general life cycle of fire trucks based on our regulations. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the second page there is reference to \$3.5 million. Maybe it will be used for computers, but I would like the minister to correct me if I misunderstood. It's obvious that the systems need to be replaced because they are outdated. I'm asking for clarification on the communications hardware, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, the computer hardware and systems in each community are continually upgraded by the Government of Nunavut where the equipment has the hardware to enable the upgrading for the computer software. This is to allow the equipment to mesh well together and this funding is to complete the upgrades required in the various communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Is the \$3.5 million going to all the communities? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, that's correct. It's not going to only one community; it's going to different communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Moving on to another topic related to the question asked by my colleague from Arviat North, it looks like the fire hall in Kugaaruk will be replaced. What about the old fire hall? Where is it going? Is it going to be removed or used for something else? I ask that question to get clarification, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The old fire hall belongs to the hamlet, so it would be up to them as to what they want to do with it. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank the minister for that clarification.

Moving on to something else in the (interpretation ends) capital estimates 2020-21, (interpretation) I would like to ask a question on page J-3. The documents mention the Arctic Winter Games, Canada Winter and Summer Games, Western Canada Summer Games, and those types of events.

In the Kitikmeot region we have drum dance festivals. It is not mentioned here. I would like to know if there is a program under here where drum dancing festivities could get support. I would like to know, hence my question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to his question, we work with local committees when they request assistance for gatherings. We can work closely with the hamlets. We can also work with other government organizations in that area. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): I also thank you, Minister Kusugak. The next name on my list is Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My first question is, during the past summer the Government of Nunavut undertook an integrated sustainability plan tour to a number of communities. Can you update us on which communities were visited during this tour? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I believe we visited all of the communities now at this point on those tours. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to your community sustainability plan, have there been any specific changes made to the planning process or are there any plans to make any specific changes you would like or you are planning to make to this program? Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I appreciate my colleague's line of questioning on this. Madam Chairperson, we have just finalized and have just gone through visiting all of the communities. Over the next couple of weeks our department will be going through those findings and seeing where there is commonality and whatnot. We are hoping by the end of November we will have a very good idea of what priorities are and where the municipalities would like to go in terms of dealing with infrastructure issues in their communities. We're just starting to compile all of that information right now. I hope to have the information completed by the end of November at the latest and I would be more than happy to share those findings with my colleagues. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Information provided by the Government of Nunavut as part of its recent integrated community sustainability plan tour makes reference to requiring long-term plans for local government. What specific information are municipalities required to provide? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There is a number of information that we seek from municipalities so that we could make a fair and complete assessment with them of their municipal needs. We do present them with some concrete and same requirement from each municipality. Maybe if you would allow me, Madam Chairperson, to ask Mr. Seeley to respond to the details of that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for the question. The ICSP tours have been underway for a number of years now. We think that as a department we have built up a bit of an annual cycle and expectation with our municipal partners on the level of consultation that communities can expect. The annual cycle of engagement with communities has allowed municipal councils to actually put their infrastructure priorities

together and their operational requests forward to our staff on that annual cycle.

In the last two years we have taken the initiative to invite some partner departments, federal and other GN departments and in fact other divisions and branches from within the Department of CGS itself to participate in the ICSP tours to engage a little bit more with municipalities and build up those relationships so that there's an ongoing dialogue or the opportunity to build an ongoing dialogue in and around long-term planning opportunities.

I think that the member's question was originally about what sorts of changes and different concepts are we exploring within that program and within the report. We're taking a lot of different options to actually build on the success that we've had so far. The notion of long-term objectives or long-term strategic objectives being identified by municipalities is something that we're working hard on developing to ensure that we've got a consistent approach within municipalities toward their infrastructure needs and that the programming and operational requirements are incorporated in that.

With the changes to the *Municipal Elections Act*, we know that newly elected council members will be in term for four years, and we are developing some new approaches to engage with them over that four-year elected cycle. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you to the member for the question.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Just a quick reminder; I know if you're not used to an interpreter, it's pretty hard to keep up when you're talking really

fast, so if you can remember just to slow down. I have to be reminded all the time too, so you're not the only one. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just to make a comment that I would like to state how important these community sustainability plan tours are to our communities. I think it's very important that the department gets out there each year because with staff turnovers, you don't necessarily always know what the communities' needs are and sometimes on paper it looks a lot different than when you're out in the communities. I commend the government in being able to get out to all communities and I encourage them to do it in the future.

With that, I think Mr. Akoak is burning to ask a similar question, so I will quit for now. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At this point I would like to report progress. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

>> *Laughter*

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Anyone opposed? The motion is carried and I will now rise to report progress. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the table. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Report of the

Committee of the Whole. Member Angnakak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 30 and would like to report progress and that one committee motion was carried. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Member Joanasie.

>> *Laughter*

The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets at nine o'clock tomorrow in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 23:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

6. Oral Questions p.m.
7. Written Questions Sergeant-at-Arms.
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address >>*House adjourned at 17:53*
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 35
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 30
 - Bill 31
 - Bill 32
 - Bill 33
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 23, at 1:30

Appendix – October 22, 2019



Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Adam Arreak Lightstone, MLA for Iqaluit - Manirajak

Asked of: Hon. Patterk Netser, Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Number: Questions from Committee of the Whole: Hansard March 4, 2019 – P. 109

Date: March 4, 2019

Subject: Conventional Hot Water Tanks Vs Energy Efficient On-Demand Systems

Question:

I would like to inquire if the hot water tanks would be replaced with conventional hot water tanks, or if they would be replaced with energy efficient on-demand systems.

I would just like to ask for some more details on how it was determined that conventional hot water tanks were more efficient than the energy efficient systems.

Response:

I am pleased to provide a written response to MLA Lightstone's questions during the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC)'s appearance at Committee of the Whole on March 4, 2019 regarding conventional hot water tanks and energy-efficient on-demand systems.

The NHC finds the conventional systems based on multiplex and single family dwelling requirements in Nunavut to be the most economical in terms of energy, cost and maintenance efficiency. Considering the year-round regional cold

temperatures, heating systems are kept running in the warmer months to assure necessary dwelling temperatures. The boiler home heating loop in the conventional systems indirectly heats the hot water tank providing an energy and cost-efficient process.

The NHC recognizes that the energy-efficient on-demand systems have many benefits such as saving space due to not needing a storage tank, and heating starts when the fixture is turned on, therefore a reserve supply of hot water is not heated. There are some limitations to the on-demand systems such as supporting a few running fixtures at one time. Therefore, for application in multiplex units, an individual on-demand system would be required for every unit that the NHC constructs, resulting in increased construction costs.

There are some practical considerations for the use of on-demand hot water systems that make them less suitable for use in NHC units than currently deployed systems.

As water usage increases in a household when two or more fixtures are running hot water at the same time, the heater's ability to raise water temperature decreases. This water heater may be more suited for low occupancy dwellings where there will be lower demand for hot water. When using a large amount of hot water, the temperature may change, even though the temperature setting has not been changed. This may result in an increase in calls made to the Local Housing Organizations maintenance teams for a lack of hot water. There are also health and safety concerns of the on-demand hot water system if the hot or cold water is left in the heat exchanger or piping for long periods of time. Bacteria may grow in the water and this water must not be used for cooking or drinking.

Exhaust vents and connections to an independent chimney are also required. The chimney liner should be the same size as the exhaust pipe. Exposed exhaust pipes should be protected with appropriate insulation. These liners are expensive, and would mean that a separate chimney would be necessary for the furnace and the hot water heater. It is recommended that the hot water heater be connected to an independent chimney. Connecting the heater with two or more appliances using the same chimney flue may affect the performance of the hot water heater.

Another concern with the hot water on-demand system is the fuel restrictions. Nunavut's available source of fuel is oil. Some fuel types require the use of an additive with the fuel to prevent congealing and a discussion with the fuel supplier is recommended for the proper additive mix. It is also recommended to use low sulfur fuel. There is also recommended water quality levels associated with the on-demand hot water system. Water softeners may need to be used in systems where water quality is a concern.

Finally, the introduction of another system to NHC's maintenance requirements would result in additional parts being needed to be stocked, training for staff on

new systems, and additional inventory management. Typical systems in NHC units use a recirculating loop from the boiler systems through a small auxiliary hot water tank. These systems are robust from a mechanical perspective and provide an effective supply of hot water for tenants.

New technological advances in on-demand hot water heating systems need further analysis prior to being considered for use in NHC units. At this point, the NHC has found that the systems currently in use are efficient and cost-effective.

I thank MLA Lightstone for his questions on hot water heating systems. My officials and I remain available should you have any further questions or feedback.