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Official Report

**DAY 6**

**Monday, March 12, 2018**

**Pages 238 – 304**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Tununiq)

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(Quttiktuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

*Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Seniors' Advocate; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention*

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for Labour*

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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

**Hon. David Joanasie**  
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Education; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

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(Amittuq)

**Mila Kamingoak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

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(Rankin Inlet South)  
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**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**John Main**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

**Simeon Mikkungwak**  
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(Pangnirtung)

**Patterk Netser**  
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**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)

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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

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(Arviat South)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Immigration*

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Monday, March 12, 2018****Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:32***Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Deputy Premier and members, welcome and good afternoon. All Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Government House Leader, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 018 – 5(1):  
Premier Absent from the House****Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform the Members of the House that our (interpretation ends) Premier, Paul Quassa, (interpretation) will be absent from the House today due to illness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Quassa, (interpretation) if you are listening to the proceedings, we hope you get well soon. We're missing you here in the House and we would like you to return as soon as possible.

Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Minister Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 019 – 5(1):  
Tiituqatigiikta: "Let's Have Tea Together"**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Tiituqatigiikta, let's have tea together.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that in partnership with the Qajuqturvik Food Centre, my department is holding a series of afternoon drop-in sessions during the month of March to share information and services available to the community members in Iqaluit. The sessions began March 1 and will continue every weekday until March 29. Sessions are being held at the Iqaluit Food Centre, Building 655, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

My department is committed to working together with other departments, government agencies, Inuit associations, and community organizations to lead

discussions related to services that are available for community members. Representatives from various government departments and community-based organizations will assist in leading sessions and answering questions.

Some examples of possible topics of discussion include where and how to file taxes, how to apply for a social insurance number, and how to apply for a public housing unit.

This initiative aligns with the outcomes identified in the *Makimaniq Plan II: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction*. Specifically the Tiituqatigiikta initiative supports Outcome 1: Strengthened Foundation through *Piliriqatigiingniq*, working together toward our common goals. In order to reduce poverty, we must work together more effectively and collaboratively.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage community members to attend these sessions, share information, enjoy tea and snacks, and ask questions about supports and services that they or the people they know may need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 020 – 5(1): The Passing of Elijah Evaluarjuk – Chair of the QEC**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with much sadness that I

inform you of the death of Elijah Evaluarjuk, who passed away peacefully surrounded by his family in Igloolik on February 10.

Elijah served on the Qulliq Energy's board of directors from 2014 to 2017 in director, vice-chair and chairman capacities. I am honoured to stand here today to express how his invaluable direction has guided the corporation's efforts to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity to Nunavummiut while also establishing the groundwork for the QEC's future successes in renewable and alternative energy initiatives.

Under his leadership, the board of directors ratified a new collective agreement for the QEC's unionized employees. Elijah's commitment and guidance to the corporation was also paramount in pursuing renewable energy opportunities for the territory such as the upcoming net metering program. He could also be counted on for his quiet leadership style which encouraged a collaborative environment.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud owner, avid musician, and caring family member, Elijah also dedicated a great deal of his time serving his community. On February 14 hundreds of friends, family, and colleagues travelled from near and far to gather and pay their respects to the man who was cherished by many. He will be remembered for his kind smile and gentle demeanour.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Elijah's family and friends during this difficult time. May he rest in peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Minister's Statement 021 – 5(1):  
Principal Certification Graduate  
Course in Inuktitut**

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

Mr. Speaker and fellow members, I'm proud to announce that in February 2018 a Certificate in Educational Leadership in Nunavut course was offered in Inuktitut to Inuktitut-speaking educators. This course examined the history and worldview of Inuit, with a particular emphasis on culture, educational history, struggles with power and privilege, as well as the beliefs, values, and principles of Nunavut.

Following an exploration of traditional and contemporary views of leadership, each educator created a leadership plan in which they articulated a school goal, strategies for reaching that goal, and indicators of success. As they return to their schools and implement these plans, this provides opportunities for these educators to develop their leadership skills while fostering culturally responsive *inuuaqatigiit* schools.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that 17 participants completed this master's level course accredited by the University of Prince Edward Island. Course participants included school leaders, teachers, language specialists, and learning coaches from across Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, this is one of two

courses required for principal certification in Nunavut. Plans are underway to offer the second required course this summer in Inuktitut here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the course was co-taught by two experienced Nunavut educational leaders: Rebecca Hainnu, a graduate of the Nunavut Arctic College Teacher Education Program and Principal of Quluaq School in Clyde River, and Darlene Nuqingaq, a long-time Iqaluit teacher and administrator.

Mr. Speaker, education is the foundation for employment and self-reliance of individuals and families. By supporting, empowering, and encouraging Inuktitut-speaking educators to become educational leaders, my department promotes and strengthens the Inuit language and increasing bilingualism of our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister... Angnakak.

>> *Laughter*

**Minister's Statement 022 – 5(1):  
Diabetes Boot Camp**

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes that happens.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, diabetes is an important issue to me and is an emerging concern in Nunavut. To help address that concern, the Department of Health is hosting a two-day diabetes boot camp for health

professionals from March 19 to 20 in Iqaluit.

The diabetes boot camp is a staff training and professional development event that addresses key concepts of diabetes management in Nunavut. These concepts include: the diabetes epidemic, chronic disease prevention and management, evidence-based diabetes care, patient monitoring in the primary care setting, diabetes prevention and risk management, that's an important one, prevention of diabetes complications through patient self-management, blood glucose pattern management, and diabetes foot and skin care.

A separate session for physicians, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists will deal with current medications, including decision support when choosing medications and reviewing medications and other treatments to maximize heart and kidney health.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health is actively working on improving support for people living with diabetes, including by increasing access to diabetes education.

Nunavummiut interested in learning more about diabetes, diabetes prevention, and healthy lifestyle choices like eating well and increasing physical activity can contact their community health centre or public health for support. People can access the Health website for more information at [www.livehealthy.gov.nu.ca](http://www.livehealthy.gov.nu.ca).

Mr. Speaker, the diabetes boot camp is part of Health's commitment to supporting Nunavummiut at risk of or living with diabetes through health

promotion and clinical care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasié.

**Minister's Statement 023 – 5(1):  
Uqausivut 2.0**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to update the House that the Department of Culture and Heritage has developed Uqausivut 2.0, the Government of Nunavut's roadmap to implement the *Official Languages Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act* from 2018 to 2023.

Taking stock of the first *Uqausivut* that expired in 2017, the Department of Culture and Heritage consulted with departments, public agencies, municipalities, businesses, and francophones on their language needs. The department also worked with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and regional Inuit associations during the setting of priorities.

Uqausivut 2.0 will cover broad priorities, including language learning, language of work, language services, and language revitalization.

The department is now finalizing the strategy by reflecting on our mandate priorities. We are hopeful to bringing forward Uqausivut 2.0 in the next few months.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Languages, I will work with my colleagues to

strengthen the management and accountability of our official languages, provide ongoing monitoring on the performance of departments and agencies, as well as in the implementation of their language obligations, policies, programs, and services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 057 – 5(1): Commissioner's Awards in Baker Lake**

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. People of Baker Lake and Nunavut, have a wonderful day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a number of my constituents who were recently recognized with Commissioner's Awards.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I had the honour of attending a ceremony held in beautiful Baker Lake at which a number of Commissioner's Awards were presented.

Paul Narkyagik, John Avaala, David and Winnie Owingayak, Darlene Nukik-Amaruq, David Mariq, and Sheila Mariq received Humanitarian Awards.

Mr. Speaker, David Owingayak, Darryl Simailak, David Simailak, Justin Ukku

Tanuyak, Steven Niego, and Patrick Qaumak received awards for volunteerism and community work.

Mr. Speaker, Solomon Tularialik, Elizabeth Alooq, Moses Akilak, David Simailak, Craig Simailak, and Peter Etegooyok received bravery awards.

Mr. Speaker, special recognition plaques were awarded to members of Baker Lake's volunteer firefighters, the search and rescue committee, the Canadian Rangers, the Baker Lake Minor Hockey Association, and the Baker Lake Youth Athletic Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased to inform members that the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers was presented on behalf of the Governor General to Elder Winnie Owingayak for her many extraordinary contributions to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Her Honour Commissioner Kusugak for coming to Baker Lake in person to preside over this wonderful ceremony.

The entire community is very proud of the many people who make so many efforts to make Baker Lake such a wonderful place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the recipients of the Commissioner's Awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 058 – 5(1):  
Appreciation of Pangnirtung  
Volunteers for Hockey  
Tournaments**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the people of Pangnirtung who are watching the proceedings.

I am pleased to rise today to acknowledge the volunteers in Pangnirtung involved in the hockey program. This year, from the beginning of April 2017 to date, they have raised over \$20,000 and the funds raised are for travelling to the Toonik Tyme hockey tournament here in Iqaluit.

The hockey players in all categories will reach close to 80 players, who will come to Iqaluit to partake in the hockey tournament, beginning with those aged 5 all the way to 17 years. They will have four chaperones for the group.

The board of directors total eight members who are all volunteers. They brainstorm ways to raise funds for the young girls' and boys' teams, including the teenaged hockey players, so that they can pay for the travel down to Iqaluit. The volunteers also submitted funding requests to the hamlet council, the HTO, and the daycare society, who were able to contribute. To date they are still searching for ways to reach the funding level required for the airline tickets.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to voice our appreciation to the Iqaluit Amateur Hockey Association, as they provided financial contributions to support the Pangnirtung hockey players. That concludes my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 059 – 5(1):  
Terrence Tootoo Memorial  
Hockey Tournament in Rankin  
Inlet**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Rankin Inlet. I think it's a day for hockey today.

There was a recent hockey tournament called the (interpretation ends) Terence Tootoo Memorial tournament (interpretation) held in Rankin Inlet over the past weekend. I wish to acknowledge the many volunteers who organized the tournament and held many meetings as organizing a tournament involves many facets that have to be dealt with. I want to distinguish them for their hard work, as well as the welcoming committee who greeted the hockey players. I thank you all.

I am also very proud of the (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet Miners, (interpretation) as their team won. Another Rankin Inlet team came in second and the third place team came from Arviat.

I thank all the athletes and participants who partake in our annual tournament. We will gladly welcome you once again. Hopefully more teams will attend as the number of teams registering is increasing for our local hockey tournament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

**Member's Statement 060 – 5(1):  
Terrence Tootoo Memorial  
Hockey Tournament in Rankin  
Inlet**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, share in the thought that hockey is the main theme today.

To the people listening who reside in Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North, welcome to the proceedings.

I wanted to recognize the teams who attended the Terrence Tootoo Memorial Hockey Tournament in Rankin Inlet, with teams from Naujaat, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Arviat, Iqaluit, and Whale Cove.

I am also proud of the Rankin Inlet Miners, who came in first place. The second place team was captained by Wendel Kaludjak. I am proud of their success in the hockey tournament. Further, no injuries were reported.

An ancillary event involved a bingo with a jackpot of \$20,000 and I envy the winner who took home the top prize, Chelsey St. John. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 061 – 5(1):  
Appreciation of Volunteers from  
Constituency**

**Mr. Kaernerker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I may be coming down with the flu.

I rise today to recognize Amittuq residents. Good day to the residents of Amittuq. Have a good day.

I rise to acknowledge the volunteers in Igloolik who manage the Igloolik food bank to help residents. I want to mention their names in this House, Mr. Speaker. They are Joyce Attagutaluk, Marian Angutiqjuaq, Jutamie Tapardjuk, Angel Kripanik, Kenneth Kripanik, and Jenelle Attagutaluk. I wish to publicly thank them for volunteering for the Igloolik food bank, as they contribute foodstuffs to residents in need.

Another matter relates to the theme voiced by colleagues about this day being specific to hockey events, as the minister stated earlier. I also wish to acknowledge Ted Attagutaluk, as he volunteers for hockey-related events in Igloolik. Whenever a fundraising drive is required, he usually leads the fundraising and welcomes all of the people with a hospitable attitude and welcomes all the contributions from residents.

Another person I wish to recognize, as he always invites me to have country food, is Levi Qaunaq. Whenever he harvests country food, he goes on the radio to invite anybody who wishes to eat country food, especially residents who are in need of food, to come and eat at his place. I want him acknowledged for his contributions.

I will turn to Hall Beach now, Mr. Speaker. A person who is now one of the elders, Abraham Oolalak, is always one of the first responders whenever a search is required and he is the first one to go out on a search. I wanted to voice my pride for his strong sense of duty and he is one of the reasons why I rose in the House to make my statement.

Another fellow resident from my community... My voice keeps cracking. Jack Kammuka also invites other residents every day to come and eat at his place over lunchtime. I also wanted to name him in my statement, Mr. Speaker.

To conclude, perhaps I can state that due to my illness, it is noticeable because I am starting to sweat. I would like to also ask for permission to be absent for the rest of the afternoon, as I am not feeling very well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 062 – 5(1):  
Gabriel Ulayok, A Success Story**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate Gabriel Ulayok. He was mentioned on the news recently. Gabriel Ulayok works at Meadowbank. He has been working there for approximately six years and has gradually risen from his position.

He first started out as a heavy equipment operator and right now he is driving an excavator, which is the largest heavy

equipment, RH 120 is the name. It's very big. Gabriel said that you can even stand up under the vehicle. Gabriel is a little shorter than I am, but he is not that small.

>>Laughter

He enjoys working at Meadowbank mines. If you want to have a visual of this vehicle, it's eight metres long. If you can visualize a 24-footer, it's about eight metres long and it weighs [300] tonnes. I don't think you can even get an idea of how heavy that is. He enjoys working there. He is an Inuk and the only one who can use those types of monster vehicles. I congratulate him for that.

I will now switch to English for this part. (interpretation ends) Ulayok joined Agnico-Eagle in 2012 and he participated in the company's mine career development program, which provides training and support for Inuit employees to reach their career goal. There are other Inuit currently on this program.

(interpretation) Gabriel said that there are Inuit from all regions that work at that mine and that you can't reach that goal overnight, but you will get there if you keep working at it and work hard. Gabriel, if you're not in Arviat, I congratulate you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Moving on. Returns to Oral Questions. There are none. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

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

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the seniors' society and their activities to date. The board members are here today with us, and if you can stand when I mention your name. Kathy Nateela, is she here? Adamie is also not here? Joanna Quassa. Rita, my dear sister-in-law, where did she go? (interpretation ends) Not doing very well here.

>> *Laughter*

Cameron MacGregor, I know you're here. Welcome to the House. (interpretation) Andre Tautu, who is here, welcome to the gallery.

>> *Applause*

As well, Lazarus Arreak who is also here, welcome, and this includes Sandy Kownak, who is one of the managers. Thank you for your presence.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't stop smiling today. My family is here and I am very happy. (interpretation ends) I would like to recognize my better half, extremely better half, Amanda Hanson...

>> *Applause*

...and our eldest son, Augustus

Angmaaq Main, *irniik...*

>> *Applause*

...and our youngest, Odin James Ihumatatnaaq Main.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) I wanted to recognize them today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Angmaaq and Ihumatatnaaq, welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize an individual as the member representing Chesterfield Inlet. I take great pride in the work he has done throughout his life. He was also my first boss approximately 35 years ago.

He has received a medal from (interpretation ends) the Queen of England, Elizabeth (interpretation) for his work on Inuit culture. He isn't just an elder; he is one of the last individuals who retain the traditions of our ancestors. He now teaches traditional skills to young people.

He is well known. Although he now suffers from a physical disability, when he is fishing, he crawls on the ice to set his nets and whenever his Honda is stuck, he uses his cane to free his machine from the muck or mud. I am very proud of him.

He was just recently appointed to the

seniors' society and will serve as the vice-president for two [terms]. Let's applaud Mr. Andre Tautu of Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Tautu, welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome all of you.

I wish to acknowledge a couple of individuals from Pangnirtung, although the whole team isn't here. They will be going to play (interpretation ends) badminton at the Arctic Winter Games. (interpretation) They are Susa Angnakak, who is also my late mother's namesake, and Megan Kilabuk. They are going to play badminton at the (interpretation ends) Arctic Winter Games. (interpretation) Welcome.

The rest are not here and they may have already left for the games, but I wish to recognize them all. I would like to recognize Joanasi Mike and Davey Nakashuk. They are going for the (interpretation ends) wrestling (interpretation) events, and their chaperone for the team is Maggie Ejetsiak. These are young people from Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Go Team Nunavut! *Hilii?*

(interpretation) Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for

Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to take a moment to recognize one of my favourite uncles, Uncle Lazarus Arreak. He was a great contributor during my campaign and he has always been there to help me out whenever I need it.

I would also like to take the opportunity to recognize one of my fellow former NS classmates, Kiah Hachey. Thank you for always being a great friend and thanks for being here. Thanks.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Maternal cousin, welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although she has already been recognized, I would like to recognize Sandy Kownak to the Chamber. During the campaign I sat down with her and her husband, and actually she brought her kids down to bring forward some of the issues that the youth want me to work towards. I want to thank her and her whole family for help giving me some guidance and some direction on what we do here today.

Again, somebody who has already been recognized, but as I recognized his wife in the Chamber here last week, I thought it would only be just that I recognize Cam MacGregor formally to the House so I don't start any disputes on the home front. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my nephew. He is on his way to Hay River for (interpretation ends) badminton, (interpretation) and I am proud of him. Welcome to the House, Derrick Akeeagok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Go Team Nunavut!

(interpretation) Derrick, welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to acknowledge and I'm happy to see a person who would welcome me to Chesterfield Inlet whenever I was there. His wife makes delicious bread. She makes the best tasting bread as far as I'm concerned. I am very glad to see you, Andre. Welcome to the House.

Also, Sandy Kownak, when I went to school in Baker Lake in the 1970s, she was a young child back then. I used to spend quite a bit of time at her parent's house. She is now an adult and maybe she has grandchildren now. She says "no." Welcome, Sandy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. They have already been recognized, but I still wish to recognize Sandy Kownak and Kiah Hachey. They created the Baker Lake Abluqta Society. This society is progressing rather well and I wanted our government to be aware of this society as they should be well known.

The Abluqta Society is running quite well and more people are starting to become members. They work on Niqitsiavut, they run a thrift shop, and are starting up a food bank. Since they founded the Abluqta Society in Baker Lake, I would like to welcome the current president, Sandy Kownak, and Kiah Hachey. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Welcome to the visitors in the gallery who weren't recognized. Nunavummiut are welcome anytime to the Legislative Assembly.

Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 053 – 5(1): Curriculum Development in Nunavut

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are directed to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, in June of 2016 Alberta Education announced a six-year \$64

million reassessment of their curriculum, of which everyone well knows that the Alberta curriculum is what Nunavut uses in our education system. In that announcement, they announced that the K-4 curriculum would be ready by the end of 2018, grades 5 through 8 in late 2019, and high school between 2020 and 2022.

My question today is: how will the Department of Education proceed with adapting Alberta's new curriculum to meet Nunavut's needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Hickes, for the question. Yes, we are aware of the redevelopment of the curriculum in Alberta. I am very much looking forward to meeting with our counterparts from Alberta. Also, the three territories will be meeting in British Columbia for the Council of Ministers of Education. This is one of the big topic areas that we will be discussing. Also, we're very much trying to include new materials that are relevant for Nunavut. We look forward to the discussions then and providing an update for the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the OAG's report on education in Nunavut from 2013, of which I'm sure the minister will be tabling their latest action plan from very shortly, in it in recommendation No. 52 it states that

“The Department of Education should reassess its plans for developing the remainder of the required teaching resources, in the required languages, and should determine what adjustments are to be made and by when.”

My question today is: has the department reassessed its plan for developing the remainder and new curriculum and, if so, what are some of the examples of these changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Hickes. The Curriculum Services Division has been quite heavily involved on the Inuktitut language arts and that's just one focus that we have been very much doing a lot of work. However, I don't have a specific example of what more we would like to do in relation to the Auditor General's recommendation, but it's still on our radar and the action plan still stands. We're trying to meet the obligations that our department committed to in that recommendation. Again, I look forward to reporting progress on that front when the time comes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The coverage in the news in June of last year the now minister was asking questions in the House and the article was titled, “Nunavut education minister can't find Inuktitut curriculum materials.” In that article the then Minister of Education stated that “his department plans to phase in a new

Inuktitut curriculum in schools, starting with kindergarten to Grade 6. The plan is to start Grade 7 to Grade 9 Inuktitut instruction in classrooms in the coming...year,” which would be this year.

Mr. Speaker, also in the OAG’s report No. 50 recommendation states that “Several educators and departmental officials told us that progress has been particularly slow in producing teaching resources in the Inuit languages...”

Mr. Speaker, my question today is: what grade levels are complete and can the minister confirm the status of the Inuit language curriculum team, how many people are staffed in it, and is it a fully functioning unit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Hickes, for that long-winded question.

>> *Laughter*

We are trying to keep on top as much as we can. The Auditor General’s report and recommendations; there are many elements that we need to cover and I can’t say for certain where we’re at with all the curriculum that we need to continue with. I want to say that the question I had asked previously to the then Minister of Education, I do want to work towards getting some of that material out. I think I will work with my colleagues in this House to get as much material that is useful for Nunavummiut. I can only say that it’s still work in progress.

One thing I want to say too is that we need more Inuktitut educators that will be able to vet through these materials, the curriculum and the resources that go through that curriculum, to look at how well it would be effective in our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 054 – 5(1): Improvements Needed at the Martha Taliruaq Centre**

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

Mr. Speaker, the Martha Taliruaq Centre in Baker Lake has been in operation for nearly 20 years. It is run by a society with support from the Government of Nunavut.

Can the minister tell this House whether her department has considered an expansion to the Martha Taliruaq Facility and an upgrade in the services provided? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Elders obviously are very important for all of us. In terms of the elders centre in Baker Lake, I know that my staff has been in contact with the society and I know that there is going to be some kind of renovation work going to be proposed in the next budget coming up that we’re going to be come before you in the Committee of the

Whole. As for expansion, I don't think that has been taken into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Martha Talirug Centre currently has only one wheelchair access ramp and it is located on the side of the building which faces the prevailing wind. Would the minister commit to directing her officials to looking into the possibility of constructing another wheelchair access ramp for emergency situations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. When we come before the Committee of the Whole, actually it's in part of the small capital asks. If the member says that yes, we can have it, then the ramp has been identified as one of the projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. I appreciate that the Martha Talirug Centre is operated by a society and is not a government-run facility. Will the minister commit to working with the society to see that its critical infrastructure needs are met? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The elder homes are always on our radar. I know that my staff visit there frequently, several times a year and when they see things that need attention, something that's brought up, they work with CGS. Going forward, these are the issues that could be brought up by the society to my department. If there are specific things that need addressing, then that's the avenue to go with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towntongie.

#### **Question 055 – 5(1): Eye Team Visits**

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

Mr. Speaker, last week I raised a concern that was brought to me by an elder in Chesterfield Inlet about his inability to get an appointment with the visiting eye team when they are in the community.

Can the minister clarify for this House how her department determines the length of time the eye team will stay in each community and how it ensures that everyone who needs to see the eye team gets an appointment while the team is in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was also concerned when I heard that and I checked into it. The people who need eye exams get appointments through the local health centre. Each community is different. There are more people who go to eye doctors in some communities than others. The eye team is in Chesterfield Inlet 10 days a year.

I would like to say that if anyone has a problem with this at any time, please call the office that I always mention. The phone number is 1-855-438-3003. That number can be called any time if you have any problems at all. If your community representatives or anyone has any problems with their health checkup, just call that number and they will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towtongie:** Mr. Speaker, my constituent is a unilingual elder and is very unsatisfied with the service that is currently being provided by the current eye team contractor, even though it's through the health centre; 10 days in a year for an isolated community out of the 365 days of the year.

Can the minister provide an update on how often the contracts for visiting eye teams are revised to ensure that services are fully and adequately provided and how her department decides when to renew a contract and when to look for a new service provider? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just looking to see when the contract will expire. There are usually two contracts, of which one is for the eye team. As to when that contract will end, I don't see that information right now. It's always reviewed to see if they are performing the contract properly. If they are lacking in services, you can ask for another visit. If they needed to add more days to the visit, we can do that. As I stated, you can call the (interpretation ends) patient relations office. (interpretation) You can request another visit. It's possible to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituent has not been able to get an appointment with the eye team when they visit Chesterfield Inlet. As anyone who wears glasses knows, it is important to have your eyes tested and get new glasses if there has been a change in your vision, especially for the elderly.

(interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to working with the eye team contractor and ensure that everyone in Chesterfield Inlet who needs an eye appointment will get one during the next eye team visit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can do that. I have already directed my

department to check into that and they have. We will keep working on this issue because we want to run things properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Question 056 – 5(1): National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Justice, who is also responsible for the Status of Women.

I want to thank the minister for the statement that she made last week about the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. I appreciate her words.

In 2016 the Government of Nunavut's Minister of Justice issued a formal order to provide for the national inquiry to operate in the territory under the authority of the *Public Inquiries Act*.

Earlier last week the commission for the national inquiry requested a two-year extension to its mandate. The federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations has publicly stated that she will be consulting with her provincial and territorial counterparts about this request.

Can the minister indicate whether or not the Government of Nunavut supports the request for an extension to the inquiry's mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for her question. She's right that the MMIW inquiry has requested a 24-month extension. This government has not discussed whether or not we support their extension, but after speaking with a number of individuals through emails, Facebook messages, and text as the Minister of Justice and the Minister of the Status of Women, I concur that I will support their extension. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Nunavut is the largest jurisdiction in Canada. I would like to see the national inquiry conduct at least one public hearing in the Qikiqtaaluk and one public hearing in the Kitikmeot. Will the minister convey this concern to the federal government when it consults her about the inquiry's request for an extension to its mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In talking with the MMIW commission, any member from any community can request the commission come to their community by way of support and motion from their municipality. I'll give an example.

They had a hearing in Rankin Inlet. There was a young lady who approached

the hamlet council and asked for support from the hamlet council to hold a hearing in Rankin Inlet. The mayor and council there supported her and had written a letter to the commission, the commission accepted their request, and a hearing was held there.

Any member from any community can request a hearing, again like I said, by way of support from a motion from the municipality in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in the preamble to my first question, the Government of Nunavut's Minister of Justice issued a formal order in 2016 to provide for the national inquiry to operate in the territory under the authority of the *Public Inquiries Act*. The order states that "...the Government of Nunavut is committed to taking effective action to prevent and eliminate violence against Inuit and other indigenous women and girls in Nunavut." Can the minister describe the initiatives the new government will be working on in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I haven't sat down with the Status of Women to exactly collaborate as to what this government is going to do, but that was one of the things that I would like to work on. Hopefully by spring I can give you an indication of exactly what this

government plans on doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

**Question 057 – 5(1): Issues with Tammaativvik Boarding Home**

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

Mr. Speaker, we have been concerned about this issue for quite some time in the Baffin region about the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. Some patients stay at the boarding home and it is always full. There are some people who are physically disabled who stay at the boarding home.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate if the boarding home provides adequate security services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this has been an ongoing concern for quite some time. My staff do go visit the boarding home to make sure that the proponent is following the contract. Monitoring and security has been a concern, and I have been asked more than once if the (interpretation ends) security guards (interpretation) are doing their work properly.

According to my understanding at this time, there is one security guard there. However, my officials recently went to

tour the facility on March 1 and they met with the contractor responsible for Tammaativvik, who apparently stated to my officials that they will be hiring more security guards by offering a contract for those services this month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This boarding home requires a security guard. I realized that this weekend. My spouse is staying there, so I stayed most of the weekend. It became evident that something unpleasant was occurring, especially for the disabled people and the elders who tend to get scared. There are people who were coming in and out intoxicated and were bothering the patients who are ill. You're not supposed to do that to old people. I have seen intoxicated people unplugging telephones and this is not good to see. It is not safe for the patients. Some patients get scared very easily. Therefore we have to take care of our patients. Is there no security guard during the weekend or do they provide one at all times? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is of grave concern to hear of such things and I wouldn't want to see that occurring. Our officials cannot stay at the facility 24 hours a day. My officials don't work there, so we ask the staff to meet with them and that's what we're told.

I don't know why there was no security

guard. As you have stated, you realized this occurred. I don't know why I wasn't informed there was no security guard. They have to provide a security guard through their contract and they said that they would have a 24/7 security guard. I will look into it. I can ask my officials to look into this as to what occurred this weekend and to look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

#### **Question 058 – 5(1): Homelessness**

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, the community of Gjoa Haven, and my family watching.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for Homelessness.

I want to revisit the issue of the homelessness surveys that the minister's department is undertaking. During Friday's question period, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that these surveys are being conducted in a total of four communities.

For the record and for the people watching the proceedings and people listening to the radio, can the minister confirm the communities in which the surveys are taking place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Homelessness, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The communities are Pond

Inlet, Arviat, Gjoa Haven, and this is from memory, Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister describe how his department is working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the local housing organizations in these communities to conduct the homelessness survey? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not working so much directly with the local housing associations, although the results could be shared with them because they are part of the solution. This is mainly under our obligation. It's under the blueprint for action. We have several obligations under the blueprint for action and this is one of them, to just find out what the hidden homelessness is so that we can address the problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 7, 2016 the Department of Family Services' *Framework for Action for Nunavut's Absolute Homeless* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities has been to develop a new action plan on absolute homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister update the House today on the status of developing the new action plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Doing this hidden homeless survey is part of the process in order to come up with an action plan. We would have to work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation as part of the action plan too because, as the member is aware, we're in charge of homelessness, but we're not in charge of housing. We have to work with our partners in order to address this problem.

Getting a handle on the hidden homelessness will be the first step to see how much of a problem it really is in terms of the size of the problem. We know there are homeless people. We know there are hidden homeless people, but we can't get an actual handle on the proportion that is hidden homeless. This is one of the tools that we have in order to try to come up with a good action plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 059 – 5(1): Procurement Process for Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project**

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

I would like to revisit the issue of

Iqaluit's new marine infrastructure project. Last week I asked the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to explain how the government had determined that 15 percent was the appropriate level of Inuit labour content for this project.

Mr. Speaker, it is not especially clear how the government determines the appropriate level of Inuit labour content for any given major capital project. For example, while the Inuit labour content level for the marine infrastructure projects in both Iqaluit and Pond Inlet has been set at 15 percent, the Inuit labour content for the new Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre has been set at 20 percent while the level for the new health centre in Sanikiluaq is 25 percent.

In response to my question, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation stated that the issue is being "dealt with by Community and Government Services."

Can the Minister of Community and Government Services clarify how the government determines the Inuit labour content level for the Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that question. When we come up with projects on the proponents, we make a list of Inuit labour content, and they have to review and follow various criteria. They have to figure out how much Inuit labour content will be needed

and what kind of work will be done. The workload and various figures are put together and which communities the work will be done. That is how they figure out how much Inuit labour content will be required. If you want to see the details, I can provide that information to the member, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I would definitely like to see how those calculations are made.

Moving on, last week I noted that the specifications for the Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project contain a number of references to relocating or removing and disposing of a number of "shoreline shacks" that are presently located near the breakwater. In response to my question on this issue, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation stated that "The Department of Community and Government Services is involved as we are collaborating on resolving the shack issue. We are also conducting a survey of the homeless people to work on a resolution of this matter."

Now I ask: can the Minister of Community and Government Services clarify his department's role on this issue, and what specifically will happen to the homeless that live in these shoreline shacks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. This is quite complicated when you start talking about working on a project such as this. It becomes more than just putting in a wharf or a docking facility when you have to deal with different portions, I guess. People have shacks down there. People pull up their boats for the season down there. Unfortunately there are some people who live in those shacks and what have you.

This is one, I believe, that our department of CG&S is working with the client department, Economic Development and Transportation, along with the city. Some of that property may be Inuit-owned lands and so on and so forth. There are many parties and many organizations working on this issue to try to make it easier for everybody to deal with when it comes time to moving shacks or removing shacks, boats, and people. It's quite complex and there are many people or many organizations participating to make sure that it goes as smoothly as possible, especially for those who may be living in those premises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. As the minister is aware, the federal government is funding a significant portion of the Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project under the New Building Canada Fund. The Department of Community and Government Services has had a lead role in working with the federal government on Building Canada

Fund projects in Nunavut. Is the minister in a position today to confirm whether or not the federal funding for the Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project remains on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that the federal government's Building Canada Fund that will be used for the Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project is on schedule and there are no delays with the construction of the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 060 – 5(1): Criminal Record Checks for Government of Nunavut Employees**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Finance today, whose department has overall responsibility for the government's hiring policies and practices.

Mr. Speaker, the job advertisements for Government of Nunavut positions, which appear in newspapers and other places, all contain standard language concerning the issue of criminal records checks for job applicants.

Mr. Speaker, directive 517 of the government's *Human Resources Manual* sets out the process for determining whether or not a given position requires a criminal record check and/or a vulnerable sector check to be performed

on applicants.

Mr. Speaker, there are a total of almost 4,900 positions in the territorial government. I am not looking for an exact figure today, but can the minister indicate approximately what percentage of the government's positions are classified as being "positions of trust" or "highly sensitive positions"?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our colleague for that question. I would like to give you an exact figure today, but I don't have that information as there are changes in which jobs are available and sometimes there's a criminal record check or a vulnerable sector check to be performed. It changes depending on the types of jobs that are put out to competition. It depends on whether the position requires a criminal record check or a vulnerable sector check. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. (interpretation ends) I appreciate your answer. Mr. Speaker, I will quote from a set of Government of Nunavut job advertisements that recently appeared in one of our local newspapers which says, "Employment in some positions requires an acceptable criminal record check. Possession of a criminal record will not necessarily disqualify candidates from further consideration."

Can the minister describe in general terms the circumstances in which the possession of a criminal record would not necessarily disqualify candidates from consideration for a job? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's usually for positions that don't involve dealing with people. Positions like teachers or social services workers clearly require criminal records checks. Individuals applying for administrative or accounting work that have a criminal record are not necessarily disqualified because those positions are supervised by senior staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have received concerns from a number of my constituents about what appears to be an inconsistent approach on the part of the government to this issue, especially with respect to hiring for positions in our schools, Mr. Speaker.

I do recognize that a one-size-fits-all policy is not necessarily the right way to go. For example, a qualified professional with a 20-year old DUI conviction but a clean record since then should not be necessarily disqualified from working in our schools for the rest of his or her life. However, people who are applying for senior leadership positions in our schools should be held to a very high standard.

Can the minister explain the government's current approach to this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For our government, I want to hold a high standard on any of our positions. In each of the positions, we go and assess exactly what is required and what isn't required. When they are going through the hiring policy, there are checks and balances that allows a candidate a fair and free process. Through the hiring [process], whenever there are notifications that there may or may not be, it depends on the level.

When it comes to teachers and for any of the senior staff within the schools, those have even higher vulnerable check assessments, and we hold that and work closely with our education department to make sure that those are set in the standard. I thank the member for raising this and I'm committing to making sure that we do have a good standard and [we're] consistent so everybody knows where our potential employees can come with. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Question 061 – 5(1): Marine Infrastructure**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When marine infrastructure was being discussed today,

I didn't want to be left out. I will be asking about that, Mr. Speaker.

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

As the minister will be aware, Kugaaruk's location presents some unique challenges when it comes to our annual sealift. The community of Kugaaruk has identified the need for new marine infrastructure to be built in order to improve the annual offloading and barging of sealift cargo.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation administers the Community Transportation Initiatives Program. Under this program, municipalities can apply for funding up to a maximum of \$300,000.

As a first step, I would like to see the community receive funding to undertake a feasibility study to determine the cost of improving marine infrastructure in the community to improve sealift issues. Will the minister commit to directing her officials to contact the municipality of Kugaaruk to discuss this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now I can say that in 2017-18 we identified a (interpretation ends) new barge landing (interpretation ends) for Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank the minister for her response in some part. (interpretation ends) The Municipality of Kugaaruk received \$2,500 under the Community Transportation Initiatives Program during the 2016-17 fiscal year to undertake community dock upgrades. Can the minister confirm how much funding the Municipality of Kugaaruk has received during the current 2017-18 fiscal year under this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, \$100,000 is in the books and that will be used for planning for Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there have been occasions in recent years when the annual sealift has not been completed due to ice conditions and other factors. This impacts everything in the community from construction schedules to the cost of goods.

Can the minister indicate how her department works with the Department of Community and Government Services and the Canadian Coast Guard to

identify ways of addressing Kugaaruk's unique sealift situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can state right now that they look at different options annually to plan for the whole year. We collaborate on (interpretation ends) user needs assessment feasibility, ocean floor geotechnical investigations, granular material supply investigations, environmental fish habitat studies. (interpretation) There are different areas listed. It's not only our department; we work together with many people on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 062 – 5(1): Minimum Wage**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, members.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, Ontario recently passed legislation to increase its minimum wage from \$11.60 to \$14 in 2018 and again to \$15 in 2019. However, in 2017 the increase in costs for goods and services in Iqaluit was significantly more than the increase in Ontario. Statistics Canada indicates that in 2017:

- Canada's consumer price index increased by 0.7 percent,
- Ontario's consumer price index increased by 0.9 percent, and

- Iqaluit's consumer price index increased by 1.29 percent.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers do not measure the increase in costs that people in Nunavut's smaller communities have experienced in the past year. Our territory's current minimum wage is \$13.

Can the minister indicate if we can expect to see an increase in our minimum wage during this year and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for that question. Currently Nunavut's minimum wage is set at \$13 an hour, effective April 1, 2016. This territory has not decided whether or not an increase would be foreseen in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a bit disappointing that the department is not looking into increasing our minimum wage when the minimum wage is higher in other parts of the country than our territory. I wonder if the minister can explain why they're not looking into increasing the minimum wage in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I can correct myself. The Government of Nunavut is

investigating and reviewing its legislation to increase the minimum wage in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has indicated in its annual report that the government does not measure the consumer price index for communities or the territory as a whole. The government only measures the consumer price index for Iqaluit. However, the city's index does not reflect the inflation costs or the cost of living that smaller communities are facing.

Can the minister indicate how the government monitors changes in inflation costs and the cost of living in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I do not have that information at this time, but I can find it for you and get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

### **Question 063 – 5(1): Caribou Management in the Kivalliq**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day.

My colleague, Mr. Keyootak, was talking about caribou before the end of last week and I want to talk about caribou today. I will direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

As members are all aware, both as Nunavummiut and perhaps more specifically as Kivalliq residents, I would not be remiss in saying that caribou always dominate any discussions we hold, Mr. Speaker. It seems that daily discussions take place in my community of Arviat regarding our caribou and their importance in our lives.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): My first question is with respect to the caribou herds in the Kivalliq region, namely, the (interpretation ends) the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds. (interpretation) What are their status or population trends in the Kivalliq? Are these herds increasing or decreasing in number and does our government have knowledge of these numbers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As Minister of Environment, I thank you for the question. I can say I understand that the herd in the Kivalliq is healthy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister.

Although that may be the case, which is gratifying to hear that the herds are healthy for both the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou, we need to maintain monitoring these caribou herds, at least in thinking about the future.

What kinds of initiatives does this government or the Department of Environment have in place related to the monitoring of the caribou herds? Perhaps I'll ask my question in English. (interpretation ends) What are the biggest issues facing the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herd in terms of making sure that that herd stays healthy into the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My department will continue to work with the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board and our co-management partners to determine if management actions are necessary. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. It's a very important issue for my constituents. As a final question, I would just like to ask the minister: how does the department collect information regarding this herd? I'm asking about specifics in terms of surveys, or is information collected at the community level? Are Inuit elders included in terms of how information is collected? Are harvesters included? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can say they do multiple... They do aerial photos as an example. For sure they would be using traditional knowledge in dealing with hunters and trappers and again, working with our partners. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 064 – 5(1): Model of Care Review**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the Minister of Health has been waiting for this to begin and I do have a number of questions this week, but I'll start off with a very easy one.

Mr. Speaker, in September 2016 the model of care review began and it was expected to be complete by December 2017. My first question is: is this review complete? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I was waiting for your question. No, I don't believe so, it's not complete yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** I was getting a little ahead of myself, Mr. Speaker. I was surprised to hear that response.

I know that there were some initial delays during some of the analysis of the information. Again, here we are in March and as it's not complete, what is the anticipated timeline for this review to be complete?

I know a number of members have asked questions on the level of health care that the model of care has been instrumental, this review, in evaluating what type of care Nunavummiut can expect to receive across the territory and what are the anticipated results, so if the minister could be a little clearer on when this review will be complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that the last minister would know that this is very complex, it's not something easy that you can just put forward. There are always business cases to determine; some of them don't always get passed or approved. A model of care also involves the people to actually carry out the service. It's not just so straightforward.

Just reading my briefing note here, Health is taking steps to address these issues. A draft report has been prepared. As the [member] would know, a report is being done by Health Intelligence, the consulting company, and it is being reviewed. The final report is expected to inform the Model of Care Design Implementation Project, what it would look like over the next three years, and that's expected to be completed by March 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Your final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll look forward to seeing that report in the very near future, as we are in March of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I guess the minister kind of alluded to it in her response of an implementation team and I, probably more than most, understand how complicated the data from this review is. One of the questions that leads me in this implementation... I hate using the word "assume," Mr. Speaker. You have heard me say that before, but I'm going to assume that there are going to be phased-in approaches at the very least on gathering some of the low-hanging fruit for some of the solutions to improve the care delivery of health services across the territory.

Can the minister confirm, out of this three-year implementation, that there will be some very preliminary actions and hands-on actions to improve the level of care that we expect and our constituents expect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Angnakak.

**Hon. Pat Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think common sense would tell us that it's impossible to do a drastic change like that all at once. We need positions in place and we need the funding in place. Also, I think another thing that we need to remember is when we're talking about this kind of change, we're not just talking about the individual; we're also talking about the organizations and the different entities that also need to change. I think it's a

little bit more complex than perhaps what some people might think it should be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Fellow members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Therefore we will proceed with the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

#### **Item 16: Motions**

##### **Motion 011 – 5(1): Extended Sitting Hours and Days**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the winter 2018 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, 3, and 4 with Mr. Akoak 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 15:20 and Committee resumed at 15:43*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3, and 4. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, members. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 1 and commence with the review of the capital appropriation for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by Nunavut Arctic College?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2018-2019 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. On Friday we heard the opening comments from the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation as well as a member of the regular caucus.

Minister Kusugak, do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, I would like my officials to be at the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to let the officials in?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Terry Audla, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my left is Stephen Hooley, Vice-president and Chief Operating Officer for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Welcome to your officials. As I stated, we completed

the opening comments on Friday. I will now open the floor to general comments. Seeing none, I will start with Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just when I looked through the opening comments, one thing that I don't see is a list of the public housing and staff housing construction communities that are going to be built. I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide that information to us. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I'm sure that information will be available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will that be available? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, we could get that available as soon as you want it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister and your officials. As the minister will recall, I wrote a letter to him a few weeks ago concerning the issue of mould infestation. As I noted in my letter, the NHC's most recent annual report indicates that the corporation committed \$5 million to remediate units affected by mould. "The Corporation is in the process of assessing the remediation cost of units affected by mold in other communities." Can the minister confirm

if this amount of \$5 million was from the NHC's capital budget for M&I improvements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer to that is yes. Mr. Chairman, at your convenience, if Mr. Hickes would want me to read off the communities and public housing units approved, I can do that also, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** We will deal with that. Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2016 the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for proposals for mould remediation and assessment across the territory. The RFP indicated that 14 units would be inspected in Kugluktuk. Can the minister provide an update on what work has been done to date in the community Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For that detail, if I can, through you, have Mr. Hooey respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hooey.

**Mr. Hooey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. In Kugluktuk...I'll take a step back. The contract that was let was for six communities and Kugluktuk was not one of those communities that was identified in the RFP. However, since that point we

have done both level 1 and levels 2 and 3 mould training in Kugluktuk to allow the LHO to start to address the issues that are present in Kugluktuk at the time. We're continuing to do additional assessments with respect to mould. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On October 25, 2016 the Nunavut Housing Corporation tabled a document in the Legislative Assembly which outlined the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan for public and staff housing construction for 2017-18 and 2018-19. The document indicated that 90 new public housing units would be constructed in eight communities during 2017-18. As of today, what is the status of the construction of these units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will just get those statuses and respond as soon as we get them, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a whole bunch of different statuses on these communities in the Baffin, in the Kitikmeot, and in the Kivalliq. Maybe if I could have Mr. Audla or Mr. Hooey respond to them in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Which person? Mr. Hooey.

**Mr. Hooey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the construction that was tendered last year, all the public housing and staff housing construction is on time. Some of the units have already

been completed in Cape Dorset. The rest are under construction and on time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier Mr. Hicketts asked for an update on the construction of public housing in upcoming years and I think the minister agreed to provide us with that information. I'm wondering if he can provide that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In haste, I am having one of my staff make copies as we speak and as soon as it comes downstairs, I would be more than happy to share it with you. Give us five minutes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving along, information provided by the housing corporation in its updated public housing allocation system backgrounder indicates that there were some significant changes in communities' wait-list between March 31 of 2016 and March 31 of 2017. For example, Rankin Inlet's wait-list increased by 103.1 percent from 63 to 128 units while Chesterfield Inlet's wait-list decreased by 58.6 percent from 29 to 12 units.

How does the Nunavut Housing Corporation verify the accuracy of wait-list information that is provided by local housing organizations? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. I, too, was wondering the same thing. The methodology of collecting housing needs in each community was cleaned up. In some communities, such as Rankin Inlet, they were not reporting those people who were looking to get on the housing list. It was not being reported properly. People were not on the housing list that should have been. It was just a mess and every community had their own way of collecting who is on a housing list and who is not. It has now been streamlined. Consideration of who goes on the housing list and how they get on has been cleaned up, and that's why you see some communities had drastic increases and some of them may have dropped down. It has been cleaned up to ensure that everybody on the same way of figuring out who is on a housing wait-list and who is not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to talk about the housing corporation's allocation system backgrounder that was provided to us. It contains a lot of good information. It shows how the housing corporation comes up with their allocations for each year.

I know the document can be a bit fluid sometimes when a situation changes in each community, but I also think it would be a great document for people to review so that people can understand that when the housing corporation

allocates units to communities, they're not just pulling names out of a hat; there's some formula towards what they're doing.

I wonder if you would commit to tabling a copy of the housing corporation's updated public housing allocation system backgrounder in the Assembly before the end of the current sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree more. I think the housing corporation has to improve and also re-advertise all their programs, how they reach those goals that they try to get, how people get on the public housing list, why someone got one house instead of somebody else, and get rid of the myth and stuff like that. I would be more than happy to share that information and table it before the end of this session, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation):** Thank you. Thank you, minister and your officials. This is something that we have raised before as a concern to the government, which is staff housing in decentralized communities. Concerns have been brought to my attention that there are a number of staff housing units in Pangnirtung that have been vacant for extended periods of time. Can the minister tell me how many staff housing units in Pangnirtung are currently vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): We're trying to find out exactly how many staff housing units there are in Pangnirtung. There are many government staff housing units in the communities allocated to positions that we are waiting to fill. I don't know how many vacant staff housing units there are in Pangnirtung right now. Let me look for it.

There are 55 government staff housing units in Pangnirtung and 9 units are vacant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) It is my understanding that staff housing units in the community are assigned to different departments and that these units become occupied if the department is able to successfully fill the positions. Will the minister commit to providing me with a detailed breakdown of staff housing units in Pangnirtung, including information concerning which units are assigned to which departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think I would be more than happy to provide it after I consult with the appropriate department or departments that would know which housing units are allocated for which jobs and at which department. Once I get that, I don't see why not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. This will be my last question. Can the minister indicate how many (interpretation ends) GN staff housing units (interpretation) in Pangnirtung are currently being leased from the private companies? (interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik*, Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): We don't have that information here and I'm afraid I don't know. Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was a concern in 2013 about the high costs of rent and that it would be reviewed after five years. I have noticed at the local level and after having met with the hamlet council in our community, it's clear that housing rentals are very expensive.

I know that if you're earning \$80,000, 30 percent of it goes to rent, which is about \$1,700. The rent is so high that young people leave the community, moving out of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. I know that some homeowners cannot keep up with their bills, especially when their spouse passes away. When they become a widow, they cannot maintain their private home.

With that, the 2018 federal budget announced that the Government of Canada will provide \$400 million over five years to support an Inuit-led housing plan in the Inuit regions of Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and the Inuvialuit region. This is an addition to the \$240 million

over 10 years announced in the 2017 budget to support housing in Nunavut.

My question now is: where the additional funding was provided for Inuit housing, has your federal counterpart provided you with an explanation as to why the recent federal government budget included no new housing funding for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to see more funding to deal with the increasing gaps to spend on housing in Nunavut. Elsewhere in the Arctic, the housing shortage just keeps on growing. My ministerial colleagues for housing in Canada will be meeting in Toronto. Once we're there, my colleagues in the NWT and Yukon will discuss this issue, and we will want to meet with the federal minister trilaterally to get additional funding to ease the growing pressures on housing needs. If possible, we will meet with the federal minister of the CMHC. We all know the sad truth of what you say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** On March 23, 2016 representatives from the Nunavut Housing Corporation appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. A copy of the Nunavut Housing Corporation was presented to the Senate Committee and tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 7, 2016. The presentation indicated that the average annual operations and maintenance cost of one public unit is

approximately \$26,000.

My question is: to what extent will the Nunavut Housing Corporation be able to use the new federal housing funding that was announced in the 2017 federal budget for O&M costs associated with operating public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Mr. Audla respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. The monies that were identified, the \$240 million for the next 10 years, we haven't been informed by the CMHC that they will be very flexible with how we use those funds. As it stands right now, considering that we haven't finalized an actual figure and as the minister had suggested, the ministers of the federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions across Canada will be meeting to discuss further figures for that purpose. As it stands, the CMHC has indicated to Nunavut that they will be very flexible with whatever funds come our way.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you. Yes, (interpretation) when the federal government comes up with funding for the housing corporation, they don't give us the criteria right away, but they come up with the criteria through meeting and discussions as to how to spend the

funding. That's where the confusion arises and we try to respond. We know that we will get the funding, but we don't have the detailed information at this time. We're going to set the details during our discussions. That's why it's that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Towntongie:** On January 24, 2016 the Government of Nunavut announced changes to Nunavut's public housing rent scale. They were saying that it will positively impact the lives of Nunavummiut and support the Government of Nunavut's poverty reduction initiatives. Today in my constituency, the so-called positive impacts are discouraging some youth for employment because their housing rent scale goes sky-high once they get employed.

The Premier at that time, Peter Taptuna, said, "I am pleased to announce today that changes coming to the Public Housing Rent Scale will address these issues," that's poverty, "and overall increase the self-reliance and well-being of Nunavummiut."

I am thinking that it's having an adverse effect when we are looking at these changes in terms of rent scale. In asking about this issue, I would like to say that the 2017 federal budget announced that \$240 million in funding for houses will be provided to Nunavut over a period of 11 years. This is approximately \$21.8 million per year.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's substantiation sheets indicate that at current levels of funding, it would take 36 years to address the existing housing

gap, 36 years. If the Nunavut Housing Corporation were to receive 100 percent of the funding it requires to close the gap in 10 years, does the capacity exist to actually construct the required number of new units in that time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. In terms of the rent scale that was announced, I think the attempt was there to make it fairer to everybody and base it on salaries. You saw people with minimum salaries, income under \$22,000, had a minimum rent of \$60 a month. Based on annual incomes as high as you said earlier, 30 percent of income, that was over \$80,000 and more. You, I, and we all know people within those two brackets. It becomes very hard to find a medium because you always have arguments for one or the other. I think that was a very good attempt to ensure that the income doesn't come to a point where you can't afford not to work or you can't afford to work depending on how you look at that scale.

In terms of whether we have the personnel within Nunavut to be able to reach that goal, anything over 120 houses a year becomes challenging, more so in some communities, again, than not because of the workforce, but again it depends on how many houses to where. It becomes challenging in some communities for sure to try to put up houses because of the inadequacy of maybe some communities' workforces and lodging, and so on and so forth, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Following the list of names, Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have just a couple of questions. Welcome, minister.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, as the minister stated, mould is a serious problem in housing units and I am glad that some communities have been visited. Will all the communities eventually be visited to have housing units inspected? We also have a mould problem in Coral Harbour where many housing units smell strongly of mould and it's evident that it causes serious health problems. That is my first question, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for your question and I feel welcome, Mr. Netser. I'm sure all the communities have issues with mould, although not all housing units do. Just few days ago housing officials met in Iqaluit to hold a workshop because some units are very dangerous while others are not as dangerous. The participants received training on how to remediate mould and the housing association staff have started to work on units with mould that is less dangerous. They will be talking to tenants on how they will be cleaning the mould and which types of mould are not dangerous.

I'm not sure whether all the communities will be visited, but if tenants find mould in their units, please let your LHA know about it. We can work on them rather than waiting for each other. Please go

tell your LHA if there is mould in a unit so that it can be dealt with in a timelier manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. Yes, I agree that we can't just wait for our housing issues to be resolved on their own. I'm sure the communities are listening. It's obvious that they will be working on that. Is there going to be training provided to the housing staff in mould remediation? I'll ask one more question. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as I indicated earlier, the housing association staff is provided training to learn how to clean the type of mould that is not as dangerous. We have set aside \$500,000 to train housing association staff on mould remediation. Yes, we do support tenants and we encourage them that if there is anything damp in their house, to clean it up instead of waiting for mould to appear. If they discover mould, they should notify the LHO so that it can be dealt with right away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I might be stepping on some toes here.

You all recall when we were going for the leadership race back in early November. We all know that money

resources are very tight and we do appreciate the housing corporation working really hard to deliver housing to our communities, but in the leadership race, NTI came forward to offer \$5 million to, I think, the Department of Culture and Heritage.

If the heritage trust offered \$5 million to the Government of Nunavut (interpretation) to house the artefacts that would be moved here to Nunavut, then this government could receive the \$5 million. That was the position.

We are always suffering from a lack of funding. Has (interpretation ends) Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (interpretation) approached the housing corporation to offer funds towards housing initiatives in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't feel your pressure on my toes, so it's not my toes you're stepping on.

>> *Laughter*

A very good question, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate it. At this point no, (interpretation) NTI hasn't approached us yet, but we have ongoing discussions with NTI on how we can have a closer working relationship. I can tell you they haven't approached us, but I do know that NTI is always looking for ways of how we can work together so that Inuit can benefit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a suggestion; it's not a question. I would encourage the minister to call the office next door and say, "We have a really severe housing need and beneficiaries need help. Could you help us with \$5 million?" That would really address a lot of our issues throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That was just a comment. Following the list of names, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister and your officials, (interpretation) welcome.

The first question I want to raise relates to those of us members who aren't newly elected and this isn't the first time we have heard of this issue.

Furthermore, we want our employees to understand it. With respect to staff housing and the construction that is slated to occur, currently there are units that have never been occupied ever since their construction. For example, a given community is getting royalties for the number of units to be constructed.

With that being the case, the first question I wish to ask relates to the number of GN housing units that are set aside for their employees. What is the approximate number of units within the last two years that have yet to be occupied? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there was a number, we wouldn't know where to find it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase my question. When you look at GN staff housing units that are currently vacant within Nunavut for two years or longer, is there an actual number of vacant GN staff units across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would need to get the numbers from the Department of Finance. We know how many staff housing units there are, but I can't tell you whether some have had tenants or how many have not been occupied. (interpretation ends) I can tell you how many are vacant, but I don't know how many were vacant or were filled and then became vacant. For that detail, we would have to work with another department to get that figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been suggested that in cases where GN staff housing units in a given community remain vacant for extended periods of time, consideration should be given to transferring those units to the community's local housing organization. I think that is a very good idea. When you look at the new document that your office has just provided, those numbers would have to be readjusted so that we could tackle on the shortage of housing within Nunavut. I would like to get the minister's

position on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that when Mr. Netser alluded earlier to the leadership review and stuff like that, I recall when I was asking for a ministerial position and also when I was running, one of my concerns was the need for housing and the need to look at the empty government staff housing units. I would like to assure my colleague and colleagues here that we are looking at that.

We are looking at if there is a better way to deal with staff housing units. Maybe there is room, like every other thing, of how we can improve that. We're currently looking at that very thing. In fact I could assure you that I've had this discussion with the gentlemen on my left and right to see how we could deal with the empty staff housing units and if there's a better way to deal with this going forward.

I assure you that in the coming weeks and months we will hopefully find a better solution in dealing with the staff housing units, especially the vacant ones. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very promising to hear the minister's approach because I honestly believe that if you were to turn over those long vacant GN staff units to public housing, the new information or new document that has been provided

could be adjusted. I strongly feel that it should be adjusted because of the fact that Baker Lake is not in the picture, but based on... .

Not nitpicking on any community, I have currently a man and a woman who are homeless who are going house to house at the current moment, and also a family of five who will become homeless come August of 2018 due to special circumstances.

At the same time with the new information, even with the adjustments by the NHC, the wait-list in Baker Lake has increased a bit, but there are no allocations as of yet for Baker Lake for public housing. I just want clarification on that, if the NHC has that information that I just provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very trying. It is very hard to deal with these matters. As the new minister responsible for the department, I assure you that the housing corporation is keen on trying to find solutions and not so much excuses as to why we're doing things. I was talking to the chairman of the board about a month ago and we were trying to talk about how we can begin to try to address the real problems.

We have a shortage of housing and we have some empty housing units. How could we approach this? How could we best deal with matter? Like in your community, for example, you have 10 empty government housing units, though there are 42 allocated government staff

housing units I'm referring to. We're trying to find solutions that way.

One of the things, if I may, is maybe trying to get those people who are in current houses that may be able to qualify to purchase their own home if there was support that way. We are looking at different alternatives in order to encourage those people who are pretty much stuck in housing because the rent they pay may not allow them to be able to get a mortgage because they need a certain percent down and stuff.

We're looking at that whole kettle of fish and trying to figure out what is the best way we could improve the housing situation. If you have some ideas here, I would certainly entertain some ideas and I know our department would look forward to some possible solutions that you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How best can I phrase this question? Currently within my community, as we're talking about vacant GN staff units, I don't know about the 10 vacant units in Baker Lake at all because it seems like they're all housed. The only one that I'm very aware of is the five new GN staff housing units which are being constructed and they're still being worked on. I see those and I drive around.

The point I'm trying to make is that if you were to make adjustments on GN staff units that have been vacant for two years or longer and hand them over to

public housing, not nitpicking on any community, but you could make some adjustments to your public housing allocations for 2018-19 and accommodate a number of communities that are not getting any public housing units that are facing homeless issues. Would that be taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I told my colleague earlier, we are looking at different ways of trying to deal with the housing situation. Staff housing is one that we have to work with client departments and it is many other departments that are seeking to fill positions that include these houses. In order to deal with that alone, we have to work with other departments and try to figure out how best to deal with those vacant staff housing units. It is one thing we're working on and I will take your comments and suggestions and go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his comment. This is just a comment. When we're dealing with homeless individuals, I will not disclose the names of the individuals I'm referring to, their hands are really caught because they're not GN employees at all whatsoever. Just to comment on that, they are facing homelessness, but I'll move on to another thing here.

As we all know and are concerned about affordable housing, the 2017 federal

budget announced that \$240 million in funding for housing will be provided to Nunavut over a period of 11 years. This works out to approximately \$21.8 million per year. In which fiscal year will the new funding begin? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's starting now, Mr. Chairman.

In terms of the homeless people you referred to in your top head, those homeless people would be dealt with through the local housing authority and through their methodology of housing them. I'm sure they would be put in a higher ranking system if they are homeless or will be homeless. They have that methodology.

In terms of that funding, that funding is starting now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did advise the homeless individuals to contact the local housing association in Baker Lake and the individuals themselves identified that they are somewhere in the middle. I don't know how that calculation works out.

Moving along on the federal budget, when we look at the federal budget and the \$400 million over 10 years to support an Inuit-led housing plan in the Inuit regions of Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and Inuvialuit, I guess my question here is on that.

Right now we're talking about capital infrastructure. My question here is, we've got public housing, GN staff units, private homeownership, and maybe somewhere down the line Nunavut can think about tiny homes for singles that are homeless. Which way are we going to be leaning more towards on this funding when we're trying to get more construction of housing units to lower the numbers of wait-lists? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have all watched *Tiny Homes* on the History channel or something. It's one thing to take a look at the tiny homes and think, "Wow! It's so cheap to build them," but the reality is the buildings that are coming up through the housing association in terms of the row housing and the housing units are the ground we're at right now.

There's nothing stopping the private sector or an individual to build their own tiny homes, but as of right now the housing corporation is not looking at building individual tiny homes because it would mean they still need to occupy lots. Lots are surveyed and they're meant for a lot bigger than tiny home lots. There's a lot more to it than just building tiny homes and putting them on wheels and stuff like that. It's quite a bit different than what we watch on TV.

The reality is that we only have a certain amount of money. It sounds like a lot of money, but it's not a lot of money when you're building up here. We will continue to try to seek the best way and cheapest way to build as many houses

for as many Nunavummiut as possible. Unfortunately right now tiny homes are not that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. The federal government announced that they're going to delay some of the budget that's forthcoming to the territory. My question here is: why does the Government of Nunavut's official reaction to the recent federal budget not mention the issue of housing funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The delay that my colleague talks about doesn't affect the housing corporation and the funding we get. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next person on the list, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I have a number of questions, but the first question I would like to ask is regarding the comments made during your opening comments and the fact that you pointed out some alarming figures for the carryover of capital dollars.

In the substantiation sheets you have mentioned capital carryovers twice and both of them were for the modernization and improvement funds of the public housing units as well as the staff housing units.

Now, for the modernization of the public

housing units, you had mentioned that the carryover was \$13.5 million, which far exceeds your request of \$6 million and likewise for the staff housing program. I do find it quite alarming that you're requesting millions of dollars of funds while at the same time the Nunavut Housing Corporation is carrying over a substantial amount more.

I was wondering if the minister would be willing to provide us with a breakdown of the current year's capital carryovers, the funds that were unspent last year that were carried over in 2017-18, as well as the expected carryovers going into 2018-19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At such time that we have those details, I don't see why we couldn't share them with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you for that. I look forward to seeing them. Might I just add, can we have those capital carryovers broke down by different project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if we could have it broken down into that detail. That would make a pretty big job, but if we can we will. If we can't, we will see what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't promise that detail, but nonetheless, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you for that response. Any bit of information will be appreciated.

Now moving on to my other questions, in the substantiation sheet for new staff housing units... . One second. On page 2 under the background, there is a breakdown of unit allocation of both owned and leased staff housing units by community. The NHC has identified that they currently own and lease about 1,500 staff housing units, which is identified in this breakdown by community.

What I do find alarming is at the bottom of the list of Gjoa Haven, which has 157 owned units and 78 leased units, for a total of 235 of your 1,500 units. Is that information correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I believe it's correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Gjoa Haven, I believe, has 150 residents. Is that correct, minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Could you repeat that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Sorry, I'll rephrase that. I would first of all like to confirm how accurate these figures are in the table contained in the background information in the staff housing unit

substantiation sheet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see what my colleague is referring to now. There might be a typo in that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be appreciated if we can have the correct information provided to us. It would be great to know the actual allocation of staff housing units by community. Would the minister be able to do that for us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most certainly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone, he said yes.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same set of substantiation sheets for the staff housing units, on page 5, towards the bottom of the page there's an area with the header of "Use" and in that paragraph the NHC has a documented waiting list of about 900 applicants on the staff housing waiting list. Would the minister be able to confirm if this waiting list of 900 staff is current? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's close. Right now units required to meet the vacant GN staff positions are 1,033. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just curious: how many GN staff are currently on the staff housing wait-list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That number right now, we don't know the exact amount that is on the GN wait-list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's unfortunate that the NHC doesn't track that information.

I'll move on to the mobile equipment. On page 4 of the substantiation sheets you have a table listing the purchases of new vehicles broken down by fiscal year and those new vehicle purchases range from 2 to 33 a year, with an average of 14 new vehicles purchased every year.

The substantiation sheet is requesting to purchase 29 new vehicles every year during the five-year capital plan. I just wanted to confirm if the NHC will actually purchase 29 new vehicles every year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Mr. Hooey respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hooey.

**Mr. Hooey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the question. With respect to vehicles, those are LHO vehicles, so that's an aggregate number. That's our approximate replacement every year. In some year, one community that's got three old vehicles may get three new vehicles. That may fluctuate by one or two, but that's the aggregate number of vehicles that are used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you for that information. Moving on to my last questions, in the staff housing substantiation sheet, the NHC had estimated a unit to cost \$450,000 to \$500,000 per unit. Now, would that estimate be for two- or three-bedroom units, out of curiosity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Yes, two- or three-bedroom units, it would be in that ballpark, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. It depends on where and stuff like that too. Yes, it would be an average of two- or three-bedroom units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to my next set of

questions, within the estimate of \$500,000 for a two- or three-bedroom unit, has the Nunavut Housing Corporation put together an estimate cost of a tiny home? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** No, Mr. Chairman, we haven't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really do believe that our government should be looking into as many avenues of creating new units, as I do believe that not everyone in Nunavut requires a larger unit, especially the individuals who live in shacks in Nunavut who would be extremely happy if they had the opportunity to own or move in or live in a tiny home. Would the NHC or would the minister be willing to look into the possibility of constructing tiny homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think it's worth it at this point to go that avenue. I think the housing corporation has been building apartments, 10-plexes, 12-plexes, 9-plexes, and what have you for one-bedroom units.

I don't think it takes much math calculation, which I'm sure my colleague is very good at, who would realize that every tiny home needs a furnace, every tiny home needs a power pole, every tiny home needs all these

things, toilets and shower facilities, and so on, to heat, and the land associated with the cost of putting the tiny home on a lot. I could only imagine how many hundred thousand dollars it would cost to put a tiny home on a lot somewhere on the plateau in Iqaluit itself. It can eat that up very quickly.

In terms of putting a 10-plex or 12-plex for 12 single people, tiny one-bedroom apartments are a lot more economically viable. You have one heating source and you have one water supply source. You have to take all those into account. If there are people out there who want to build themselves a tiny home, I'm sure that further down the road we will see it, but at this point for the corporation, it just isn't viable to do it.

I don't think we need to do a whole study to see if a tiny home is the way to go. Just from previous years of constructing units such as apartments and houses, it's cheaper for us to build six-plexes instead of stand-alone three- and four-bedroom units. That's why we're doing it like that. To go back to tiny homes, I think it would just get very expensive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I completely agree with the minister. I do believe we need to build in economy of scale in order to solve our problems, but tiny homes can have shared utility rooms, one furnace heating several units, and the like.

My last question is: would the minister be interested or would the minister possibly be able to, say, donate a lot to a non-profit organization that specializes

in construction, such as Habitat for Humanity, to test out constructing a tiny home subdivision? I can't think of the proper term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you for that question. They would have to talk with the municipal associations that give out lands and lots and stuff like that. It's just not that simple to do that. Again, at this point it's not worth the housing corporation's time right now to go look into that. If there are bodies and organizations that want to do that, I'm sure they can contact our department, but right now we're looking at trying to house homeless people and build apartments and stuff like that as most efficiently and quickly as possible.

Not to say that I discourage tiny home building, I think there are different funding sources within the housing corporation that can maybe in the future look at funding programs such as that. I don't mean to be negative on the tiny home issue; I just want to be very real about it. If there are people out there who would like to do that, I'm sure in the coming months or years, the corporation would be more than happy to take a look at funding such a program or programs if there was actual interest out there to build them by themselves as people want to enter homeownership. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I promise this is my last question. How many vacant lots does the NHC currently hold in Iqaluit? Would the NHC be willing to donate any of

those that are too small to build the large complexes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There might be 10 or so or a dozen that the housing corporation might have where there were burnt units and stuff like that, but no, we wouldn't be looking at donating. Land is very precious. If we have an opportunity to build a six-plex in one lot or a tiny home, I assure you we would be building a six-plex. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Good day. (interpretation ends) Just a few opening comments. Thank you for your good answers so far, Mr. Minister and your staff.

I'm very happy today for my constituents in Arviat and Whale Cove, considering that Arviat will be receiving 25 public housing units in the upcoming season, as well as Tikirarjuarmiut who will be receiving five public housing units and two staff units in the upcoming season, as proposed, unless we choose to make some changes. I am very happy for my constituents because I think we all know how important housing is and how dire the need is.

I'm also happy for the local housing associations in both communities because I know they see the housing need first hand. I'll take this opportunity to encourage all of my colleagues to visit your local housing association if you

have a chance. First hand you learn the issues that are being faced.

In terms of our public housing stock, I guess I'll start out with mould just because it's a very timely topic and it's encouraging to see that the housing corporation is doing some work on it. In terms of addressing the root causes, my understanding is that incidents such as overflows and lack of control of humidity are the root issues. I wonder if the minister could elaborate or confirm if I'm right or wrong on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mould is a very serious issue and it's one that the housing corporation has been scratching their head over and trying to figure out how and why it's like that. There are those HVAC systems put in houses. They should be doing their job, but things come into play. You have ten people or more sometimes living in a house that should be normally occupied by four or five. Is the HVAC system keeping up with it or not? Is the HVAC system being turned off or covered over or needing to be cleaned or are windows not being closed properly or are windows on and furnaces off? There are all these different parameters that come into play and then mould starts to set in. It's a real puzzler trying to deal with mould and get rid of it in the houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. In terms of these different factors, has the housing corporation done any work to compile

these factors so that you can say, “This is a type of unit that has had mould issues in other communities. This is a problem type of unit in terms of the different designs or whatnot or in terms of overcrowding”? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can, through you, have Mr. Audla respond to that portion of the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. We have been going through a mould remediation study and we have been working with Dillon Consulting as well for the purposes of trying to determine not only the amount of issues of mould but the sources or what’s causing all of this.

I’m very proud to say that at the NHC we are ahead of the curve on the aspect of figuring out what we can do to try to prevent mould in a sense that other jurisdictions are now looking to Nunavut as to what it is that we’re doing with respect to mould remediation. Our technical staff are working with experts in the field and there are not very many experts in the field, but we are now engaging with those individuals and we are now working with other jurisdictions as well to see what we can do based on the fact that we do have homes that are constructed to protect from the elements here in Nunavut, which can be extreme.

As the minister had suggested, there are many factors that have to be taken into account; the overcrowding, whether or

not the HRV is in proper working order, whether they have been disengaged for whatever reason, and then looking at how we can look at increasing the air circulation within that home based on the actual usage, and whether there are any structural issues, whether based on previous construction, whether the right type of material, whether there is proper insulation for that, all of that.

We are looking into all those factors and we are working with experts in the field as well as sort of trailblazing in the sense that we are working toward remedying the whole issue of mould within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s very interesting. I’ll try not to get into too much detail, but in the case that a tenant turns off an HRV system and it leads to mould damage, is there any chain of responsibility there? I’m thinking that if you are a homeowner, yes, you are on the hook; you are going to pay for it. You are going to pay to fix that problem. If you are in public housing, I just want to get a little bit more information on that HRV ventilation issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think right now it’s more of a tenant relations issue and education for the homeowners. We try to discourage them from doing that and, if they are, we will try to mitigate the factor. Maybe it’s because the machine is making too much noise and needs maintenance. If it’s not that, the staff in

each community tries to work with the tenant and through the tenant relations officer to try to deal with it at that level and encourage them to keep it on. If there are issues related to that, they will work through the local association and try to solve the problem, but right now nobody is getting reprimanded or what have you because they may have turned a piece of machinery off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just continuing on with the O&M issue, how about when it comes to things like drywall and windows? Is the housing corporation looking at alternatives when it comes to alternative materials for drywall or flooring, for example, in terms of there may be materials that you pay more for up front, but they might pay for themselves in terms of you can't put your head through it if you trip and you're clumsy like myself?

>>*Laughter*

You can disregard that comment, Mr. Chairman.

In terms of alternative materials to save money in the long run for the housing corporation, is that something that is being looked at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things we're also looking at is seeing if maybe we should centralize the HRV system so that it's in a boiler room or somewhere the tenants

can't get at it. Those are the kinds of things we're trying to solve.

In terms of finding better windows, doors, insulation, vapour barriers, Tyvek, drywall, flooring, and cabinets, we are constantly looking for the better mousetrap. It's something that the corporation totally believes in and is trying to find the most efficient ways of heating a house and building a house, Mr. Chairman. It is something high on our radar. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just continuing along this vein, looking at the substantiation sheet page 6 of 7 for the public housing builds, it says "On the other hand, there are a number of units that were built in the 1970s that are in need of extensive repairs, retrofits, or demolition and replacement. The NHC cannot afford to decommission these homes due to the dire need of housing in communities."

I was going to ask a question about: at what point would the housing corporation say, "We're putting too much money into this house every year in terms of trying to keep it livable. We're going to write it off"? Is there a point at which the housing corporation will write off a public housing unit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're always trying to find a balance between what we should try to maintain and not decrease the housing stock. The last thing we want to do is

start putting houses away that may still be usable if we replace the window or patch that hole where John Main tripped and put a hole through the wall.

We're constantly trying to not lose housing, but I think we're at the stage now where we have to identify which houses cannot be maintained anymore. There are some houses that you can get funding to renovate but not to replace. We're trying to identify those and we're working with each different local housing organization to try to identify those. Don't forget, the LHOs also don't want to lose a house if they can put another coat of paint on it and stuff like that.

I know your question is deeper than that in terms of some of these houses really aren't livable. You and I have knocked on a few of those doors over the years and I think we all have, but it becomes a balancing act of then where do we get this other house. We are seriously looking at them now in terms of saying, "Okay, we just can't keep renovating this house." It's a sad reality, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should clarify on the record that I'm not going to be the only MLA ever to argue for fewer public housing units. What I'm trying to get at is and I think the minister understands me perfectly that we want people who are living in public housing to live in excellent, good quality units that don't have floors that you can put your foot through, for example.

Moving on, when it comes to the public housing... I hope I'm not straying into

O&M here. When it comes to your public housing builds, contractors will come in and build a five-plex or what have you. Has there been any consideration given to linking those contractors with possible individuals who would be interested in a single-family dwelling in building their own home in terms of "Here is construction company X. You're going to do a project in Arviat. If you're interested, would you be willing to, on the side, build a single-family home for somebody who is interested?" Has there been any consideration giving to linking those dots? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to finish up on his remark prior to this question, the housing corporation and local housing organizations follow the health and safety standards to ensure that the house is actually still livable. There are standards that are there.

In terms of allowing contractors to do that, yes, we are actually looking into that to see if, in communities where the companies can actually do some extra work and build houses for other people while they're there, yes, of course we're in those kinds of discussions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is something that really gets me excited in terms of homeownership because we look at the people here in our territory who are able to afford to maintain a home and build a home, and

who are we talking about? We are talking about people who are employed in a long-term situation, public servants maybe, and others within the private sector who have long, stable employment. Just a comment or I guess I'll turn it into a question.

In terms of another major employer in the territory, we look at the mining sector. One of the really interesting things that have happened recently with the Whale Tail project near Baker Lake is that the project certificate from the Nunavut Impact Review Board actually makes reference to homeownership, which is a new kind of thing to include in project certificates, unless I'm sadly mistaken.

Has the housing corporation had any discussions with the private sector, such as the mining industry, in terms of making that link and trying to get people into homeownership? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate the question because it's going right down the alley that I have been pushing for and my colleagues beside me will attest to this. We need to get people that are in housing association houses that have \$80,000 a year salaries and higher out of housing association and on into private homeownership. I couldn't agree with you more that we need to encourage homeownership in Nunavut.

In that light, we're in the middle of reviewing some of the conditions that the corporation puts in terms of "You qualify for down-payment assistance if

you" A, B, C, D and we start limiting. I would like to see it where we remove some of those limiting factors and encourage them to get out of the housing association. Instead of paying the \$1,800 or \$2,300 housing rent, they can pay that towards their own mortgage if we only we would help them with the down-payment assistance program that is more conducive for people applying for those programs. We're looking into that. I would really like to see something sooner than later on that matter.

In terms of talking with the private sector, I had a meeting a few weeks ago with the Agnico Eagle president, HR people, and the chairman of the board here in Iqaluit. We met in the office. What they're looking at doing is introducing a plan for their staff so that their staff could purchase their own homes. They're doing a program like that and we were encouraged by that. We will be working with them to see how we can work close together to encourage homeownership for the people of Agnico Eagle Mines. That's one that comes to mind. We're willing to work with anybody, really, who would try to find ways to encourage homeownership, especially from the private sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just continuing on that homeownership topic, measuring whether the housing corporation's homeownership programs are effective or not, we could probably spend half a day on that alone. Just from a high level, how many privately owned units have been turned over to the housing corporation in, say, the last

year? These are homeowners who will give up their houses because they can no longer maintain them and they get converted into public housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Across the territory on average, about 10 per year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That leads right into my next question. In terms of the delivery of the homeownership programs, which I'll note are in the capital budget and it's not an O&M question, you mention in one of your substantiation sheets here that the delivery of those programs was centralized into your headquarters office; I believe it was 2014-15. Is that something that is going to continue, centralized delivery of homeownership programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes, we will continue delivering that program. It is running smoothly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main:** I'm glad to hear that because it just so happens that the headquarters office is in Arviat. I'm happy to hear that.

Moving on, in terms of this local housing complex that's being built in

beautiful Baker Lake there, I'm looking at the substantiation sheet here and it says in here that there are three high priority LHOs. Is the minister able to tell us which LHOs are the three high priority locations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I apologize, but I can't give you the locations right now. Once we have the information, we will make sure we provide it to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It goes without saying, but I feel that Arviat is a very high priority given that Arviat does have the highest public housing stock in the territory, higher than Rankin Inlet, maybe second behind Iqaluit. I could be wrong on that one.

Anyways moving on, also under the local housing complex item, it mentions in here that the housing corporation wants to go through three designs for three new builds at \$315,000 each. Can the minister explain why they want to design three complexes when they can only build one at a time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the official to my left, Mr. Hooey, can respond to that question better than I can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hooey.

**Mr. Hooey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Yes, you are right to point out that we were going to move forward with three designs with the expectation that we are actually only going to construct one per year.

In terms of going through the process of actually doing the design, it will be cheaper for us to actually engage three LHOs at once, do the designs as part of the same contract, then move forward with that, and then we will actually have planning going out three years once that is completed.

We believe that's going to be a much more effective way to deliver it than if we did one per year; did design, build, design, build, design, build, design, build. That would be a little bit more laborious of a process. We think this will be a more effective delivery method. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main, you have 22 seconds.

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard the key word that I wanted to hear there, which is "cheaper." I think we all want to hear that, cheaper.

Just a closing comment, I'm encouraged to see that this LHO complex in Baker Lake will include renewable energy. Solar panels, I believe, is a specific technology mentioned. I think there is a lot to be explored in terms of technology and reducing our O&M costs for buildings and houses. No further questions, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the

minister and his staff.

**Chairman:** Thank you. It's just a comment. Do you want to...? Okay. Next name on the list, Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my colleague indicated earlier, he said that he's very happy about the allocation of the houses to the different communities. We are not very happy with the housing allocation because there are only five housing units that will be allocated to Qikiqtarjuaq. That's why my constituents aren't very happy.

In the case of Qikiqtarjuaq, you all know about the TB testing that's currently being done there. People asked what the major cause of this outbreak is. Overcrowding was identified as the main culprit. Now, we all know that Qikiqtarjuaq is being hit hard and residents there are upset with the situation. Overcrowding is clearly the primary cause for the TB outbreak.

With that being the case, my constituents in Qikiqtarjuaq is pleading once again to increase the public housing allocation. Can the minister indicate if anything can be done to adjust the public housing allocation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is terrible to hear about the cases of TB in Qikiqtarjuaq. We would love to allocate more houses to all the communities in Nunavut, but there are a lot of communities that have even more overcrowding and the need for more

housing than Qikiqtarjuaq.

We could allocate an additional five units to Qikiqtarjuaq, but it would take away houses that are allocated to the other communities which are more in need. That's why it's not possible to allocate more units to Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the situation you are in and I do know that each of the communities would like to see more houses allocated to their communities for varying reasons.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move on to another subject. The capital estimates identify \$132,000 for Qikiqtarjuaq for modernization and improvements and retrofits. I believe those funds are for renovations and repairs that will be required. Will the LHO participate in deciding what should be renovated or repaired in the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, LHO staff are involved in the discussions as well as the board members when they're identifying which units need renovations and which units need improvements. The LHO senior staff and board members are involved in those discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank

you, Mr. Chairman. Further down in the capital estimates, it indicates that there is funding to improve the public housing units of seniors and people with disabilities. I would like to talk about that. Do the LHO board members have the authority to identify which housing units need improvement for seniors and people with disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are different people involved and they all have different ideas. Some are more active in certain areas than others and it's entirely up to what their interests are. Yes, they have that authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my community I have seen the LHO board members with no authority at all or no participation.

I'll cite an example. We are very respectful of an elder in my constituency community of Qikiqtarjuaq. He is our advisor and he goes on the local radio to advise us of dangers. He developed a physical disability last year and had to travel to Ottawa in October to go to a specialized clinic. He was there for a very long time. He has been staying at Tammaativvik since February of this year.

The elder's house has to be renovated first in order to make it accessible by wheelchair because he's permanently in a wheelchair now. He has been here at

the boarding home since this past February because his house has not been renovated for wheelchair access with the modifications needed to address his needs. He still hasn't been informed when renovations will start on his house. The local housing authority is well aware of that.

There is a house with wheelchair access across the street from the elder's house that is being used as a temporary staff house for housing maintainers. That clearly shows the lack of authority that the LHO has in the community. If the LHO had the authority, this person would be moved to that house right across the street. It has a ramp that is easily accessible by wheelchair. Is it possible for the housing corporation to look into this situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing organizations make decisions and give direction to their staff when there is a need for improvements and so on. For example, if there's a need to install a ramp, then it's the local housing authorities that can give direction to their staff so that the house becomes accessible. It's the local housing organizations that allocate houses to tenants. The LHO board members have that authority. I can tell my colleague that we will look into this matter to see why he has been waiting so long for that renovation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're now down to our second line of questioning. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for your responses. I represent Rankin Inlet and we have been allocated five new units while Arviat is to receive 25 new units. I would like to ask what the basis was used by the housing corporation for determining these housing allocations.

I am in full support of private homeownership. The former president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation made a presentation to the Senate in April 2015. At that time she indicated that a private homeowner who pays for the operations and maintenance of their house in one year, including home heating, the land lease, municipal services, and power, in Nunavut, will pay between \$158,500 and \$186,000 in one year. That's just for the operations and maintenance of a private home. That's following the guidelines of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Page 6 of 6 of the substantiation sheets (interpretation) states that in Nunavut 72 percent of tenants have an income of \$22,800 and below and 84 percent make under \$40,000. That means that the private homeowners or the tenants or anybody... . What I'm trying to say is that a lot of Inuit don't make \$158,000 up to \$186,000. There are very few people who are in that income bracket and they're renting local housing units. For example, if there are 100 houses, there are 52 percent of Inuit renting the public housing units.

My question is I'm concerned about homeownership. If the housing corporation is looking at getting more

people into homeownership, what types of programs or subsidies would be provided for those people? There has been no study done since 2013, which is five years ago.

Am I saying something funny,  
(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman?  
(interpretation) Can I proceed? Okay.

From there, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation did a study in 2013, which is five years ago. I would like to ask the minister: when will the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation do another study on how much it costs to own and operate a private home? It's currently between \$158,000 and \$186,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I didn't quite understand the figure of \$158,000 to \$186,000 (interpretation ends) a year. (interpretation) I don't quite understand that, so maybe you can tell me what you're trying to say. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Towntongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In April of 2015 the former president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation appeared before a committee of the Senate of Canada. She testified that the cost of owning and operating a house in Nunavut ranges from \$158,500 to \$186,000 per year. This is the minimum income you would need to be able to afford homeownership in various communities. These amounts

reflect the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership program income eligibility thresholds, which are based on community core income need.

My question is: these amounts have not been updated since 2013, five years ago. When will the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation next be updating these amounts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that clearer?

**Chairman:** Thank you. First of all, I would like to apologize to Ms. Towntongie. I was thinking that we should take a short break, but smiled when the Clerk said no. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. One of the things I believe that they're trying to do here in terms of limiting the range from being eligible to get into homeownership to be in that range was purposely put high so as not to set up people to fail. We're looking at ways to see if that threshold should be different if and when people can prove that they don't need to make that kind of salary in order to be able to purchase a house or build a house.

The idea behind those thresholds, I think, initially was to ensure that people, with the start of this program, weren't setting up to fail. That was the reasoning behind those numbers, but the housing corporation is trying to find ways that we can make homeownership easier by maybe giving different incentives. Mr. Chairman, I hope that answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Rumbolt): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Ms. Towntongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was in regard to the proposed community allocation. (interpretation) I was looking at the allocation of public housing. Rankin Inlet has five and Chesterfield has two. The hidden homeless are always increasing in Rankin Inlet. Minister, you know very well that some Rankin Inlet residents are living in overcrowded conditions.

(interpretation ends) The proposed community allocations for new public and staff housing construction, I'm talking about proposed, during the upcoming 2018-19 fiscal year have been approved by the Nunavut Housing Corporation's board of directors, if I'm correct. Does that mean: has the cabinet also formally approved these proposed allocations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These allocations are provided through a formula that decides which of the communities have the greater housing need. Just to remind my colleague, at the time that these were done and prior to the allocations for her community, were wrong, the numbers were not correct and since then have been compiled differently. Had this list been done with proper numbers for the community, they might have been different.

In saying that, I encourage all the people out there to ensure that they apply for their house and keep their applications current because it really matters at the end of the day. That's how we are at these numbers, Mr. Chairman. Thank

you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will you, as the minister, commit to tabling a copy of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's updated public housing allocation system background in the Legislative Assembly before the end of the current winter sitting, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the end of my questioning.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. That question was already posed earlier by me and the minister did agree to table that document. Moving on, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me a second time. When I look at the 2018-19 public housing approved units, I've got a couple of questions here on the formula. As the minister indicated, when you look at the formula, I'll use two communities for example, Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake. The numbers on the wait-list are third and fourth highest, although there are no proposed public housing allocations. Wait-list by the numbers, that's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, numbers provided for those build years were when the numbers were not adequate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the numbers were not adequate and the NHC did not correct them, is the minister indicating that we can make a motion to amend the allocation numbers as identified? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are five communities that are going to be receiving public housing units. When you look at their percentage, they are way much lower than the top four communities that have the highest number of people on the wait-list. Does that percentage have a variance factor in your formula in allocation of double-digit public housing units being constructed in five communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could leave that for Mr. Hooey to respond to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Hooey.

**Mr. Hooey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thanks for the question. In respect to the 2018-19 CMHC builds, those were approved last year. With respect to the new housing numbers, which I think you're referring to, I stand to be corrected if I'm incorrect. Some of those numbers are getting very close, simply because of the way the methodology works and they're ranked.

The top seven communities are allocated builds under the 2018-19 GN budget and that is carried to the decimal that's required to rank it. It would be probably the first decimal into that formula. It may not show up in that table. I would have to look at that table, but I'm not sure if that answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hooey. Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Mr. Mikkungwak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the answer in some way, I guess. The point I'm getting at here is when I look at the new wait-list at March 31, 2017, which we have before our eyes, will that...? I'll rephrase my question here now. Will that make an adjustment into the 2019-2020 construction of public housing? Hopefully the numbers don't change again and hopefully the NHC will ensure that, as the minister indicated, all communities are treated equally now with the new calculation formula. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He's correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Moving on, next on my list is Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep this fairly short. I just have a few questions that haven't been covered yet. I'll go back to one of my old faithfuls.

In 2016 the federal budget announced \$574 million over two years to, and I'll quote from the budget announcement, "retrofit and renovate aging social housing units across Canada." In it Minister Duclos also states that "Many of these units lack efficient energy and water systems and are in need of urgent repairs."

As of March 8 of last year, just a little over a year ago, 1,030 projects to retrofit and renovate social housing have been approved to date through the CMHC, repairing almost 49,000 existing social housing units. These investments were intended to improve energy and water efficiency and reduce energy use, lowering costs and making housing more affordable.

As we have been very well informed today, the cost of our public housing units on a per unit basis is now over \$26,000 a year. When we've got a federal program such as this that's available to us and the minister stated earlier that he wants to make sure that they access every federal dollar that's available to us, I would like to hopefully finally hear an answer that we have accessed or at least applied for funding under this federal program. If the minister could confirm that for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (Mr. Akoak):** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Hooey could respond to that through you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hooey.

**Mr. Hooey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the funding outside of the \$240 million that we're receiving from the CMHC, we are currently pursuing funding through the low-carbon economy fund, which is for energy retrofits and other efficiencies that we're hoping to get. That's one of the current programs that we're trying to access with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just have a brief comment and then I'll have some other questions.

Again, it was talked about earlier of units being offline, boarded up units. A number of us have had the pleasure of travelling to multiple communities across the territory of Nunavut and so many times you see boarded up housing units. With the lack of housing, if federal dollars could be used to renovate and retrofit these units, I strongly encourage the board of directors at the NHC to explore every opportunity to access further monies outside the funding envelope that we currently get.

That's just a comment, but I would like to go into a little bit... . Where do I start? A number of the concerns that I brought up earlier were kind of addressed. I had originally asked my

questions just on the opening comments, so I had the pleasure of sitting back and listening to some of my colleagues ask some fantastic questions.

I'm going to take a page out of my own book from when I was back on this seat in the last Legislative Assembly. It talked about at that time Nunavut Housing's role working with other departments and stakeholders for elder housing programs that are available. I know the CMHC does have some elder housing money that we access and utilize for some of our elder facilities throughout the territory in Arviat, Baker Lake, and Iqaluit, facilities like that.

There was an interesting comment that was given in response to one of my questions a few years back and it said that at this time we are also "looking at existing dwellings that we have in our public housing stock. For instance, if we have a five-plex that might be suitable to have a care provider and, say, four residents in a five-plex. We are exploring and having discussions. It's still at the very preliminary stage and a research level stage in talks with the Department of Health." That was from 2014. If that was the preliminary and research stage at that point, I'm just wondering if there has been any progression in that topic and file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. In terms of those boarded up homes that my colleague talked about it, it is always hard to just see them boarded up, but there are health and safety standards that have to be met and sometimes a house just doesn't

become worth putting any more money into.

I know in Rankin Inlet anyway, they have renovated some of the old houses that were new when I was a child and even somebody as short as I am can touch the ceiling with my elbow because they have been renovated inward. There are those kinds of issues and my colleague is more than aware of them.

Yes, we work hard at any federal dollars we could access to renovate houses. I assure you that the board of directors is always looking at ways to try to not board up a home. I think we both know that there are many people who would love to just get into one of those units.

In terms of elder facilities, facilities for housing elders and turning five-plexes into possible units like that, our housing corporation works closely with social services and Health to see how we can begin to deal with housing for elders or making our elders as comfortable as they can in Nunavut. That challenge continues and I appreciate the concern from my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the other things just sticking with elders for a moment, again, at that same time there was a comment made to making sure that designs for new housing are adaptable to be able to make sure doorways are wide enough for wheelchair access, etcetera, and at the design phase to make sure it has structure for supports for handrails and other things that can be installed after the fact, stating that "It's a lot cheaper,"

to use my friend, Mr. Main's favourite topic, "to do it up front during construction" versus modifying a home after.

I'm just going to stick with that aspect of the design right now. I do have some other questions to follow up on that topic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Sorry. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The housing corporation is trying what they can to ensure that any houses that are built, especially for the elders, have those factors in them, not just the handrails and ramps but also trying to ensure that the fridges, stoves, and stuff are also elder people friendly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might not have been clear in my question. Is the set-up for that equipment still in the design of all facilities so that it can be added on after the fact without having to rip out a wall *per se* and add in the supports for a handrail or the doors being wide enough for allowing wheelchair access in the average unit so that if an elder does take possession of the unit, there aren't any major renovations or retrofits to accommodate are necessary? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, for any row housing or any houses that are built, unfortunately not yet, but there are

facilities in communities that are being built that are elder-friendly, some four-plexes and stuff like that. When communities require them, there are units that are elder-friendly with a common hallway and ramps and stuff like that, but as for the normal nine-plex or what have you, not at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to jump into the design itself. How many variations of different units of construction does the NHC currently employ or use? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, anywhere up to a five-plex, let's say, there are probably four different versions of it at any given time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize every community has different footprints that are available for construction use and it can often impact the design of a structure.

One of the things that I have talked to different contractors about, when we're looking at saving money and making things more efficient, one of the concerns that was brought to my attention was the changing of design from one year to the next, of not allowing them to be able to find economies of scale inside the RFP package where they can have some consistency, the labourers are used to

building the same thing, and they get into a faster rhythm. It might take four months to do a certain phase of the construction or maybe if it's their third unit, it might take them two and a half months to do it. There are efficiencies that are available.

I find too often that the comment comes back to me that we're changing the designs too frequently. The question that I have is: is that a noted concern? Out of that, how often are designs revisited? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good point, Mr. Hickes. Over the years, more recent than not, we're beginning to become more consistent in our designs and be more cost-effective that way and looking at not changing them all the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for a follow-up comment on that, even for when we're getting into the warehouse design for utilizing space in a warehouse, if you have all these different fixtures, different toilets, and different parts to everything, it makes it very challenging for the LHO to keep a proper inventory. I know things mature; you've got 30-year-old equipment in a lot of communities we have to replace with 30-year-old modelled replacements.

I just want to jump back into the housing program. In last year's substantiation sheet, it stated that the corporation would determine if additional funding

would be warranted for the 2018-19 capital budget based on its analysis of the NHC's homeownership program performance in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 fiscal years. Were there any specific findings from this review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, that analysis and stuff is still continuing. Hopefully we will have some concrete numbers I could share with my colleagues probably by the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just close out with a comment. I've probably got a couple of more questions that can be more justifiably answered or asked in question period.

I just want to make a comment that I did have a brief period of time sitting in your chair and however brief it was, I couldn't help but be so impressed by the staff at the different LHOs from different communities that I went to on their real desire to look after all of us and all of our constituents. I know the biggest thing is that there's not enough money in the pot to be able to look after every broken window and every mould incident and different housing needs from a maintenance standpoint.

I just want to thank you and your department for all the hard work from the staff and the LHOs and from the Iqaluit Housing Authority here in town. I don't get a lot of complaints from constituents and when I do, I'll commend your staff for dealing with

them promptly and to the best effectiveness. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Just a comment. Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Committee Motion 001 – 5(1): Motion to Conclude Review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Pursuant to Rule 45(2)(a), I move that we continue to sit beyond our 6:00 p.m. adjournment time so that we can conclude with the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and we will continue with the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I just have two more names on the list. The next name on the list, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions. The first one is that earlier the Nunavut Housing Corporation agreed to table their housing allocation system, and then later in the day provide us with an information sheet on the construction of public housing and staff housing for Nunavut. The two documents kind of go hand in hand. I wonder if the minister is also willing to table the approved and proposed construction for 2018-19 in the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. We're just trying to clarify the timelines and the timing of that. More than anything, if and when we can't, I mean not if we can but when we can, we will when the time is appropriate, Mr. Chairman. I think our idea here and the goal here is to give you as much information as we can in a timely manner. If that's what it entails, then we really don't have an issue with that at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The housing allocation system provides the background of where you come to the point where you allocate these units. I think they kind of go together and it would be nice if they were both tabled together whenever you can.

Moving on, reviewing this document, I've had the privilege of being in many committee meetings over the last seven years or so with Mr. Enook from Pond Inlet. On many occasions he has brought up the fact that there are so many vacant staff housing in Pond Inlet and here we are today you want to add five more staff housing units to Pond Inlet. Did your department talk to the Department of Finance and find out where all these vacancies are in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, there are factors in everything and there are factors in this one. Yes, we have worked with the Department of Finance in trying to deal with these numbers and the need for housing allocations in each community and why. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given the history of all of the vacant units in the community, I think it's very important that we know that in fact there is a need for staff housing in that community because there's a lot of other communities that are in desperate need of staff housing as well. Mr. Chairman, I'm just going to leave that as a comment and we can move on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I have a short question. All the concerns here and the questions that I had were posed, so therefore I cannot report them. One thing that I would like to get clarification on is for replacement of fire damaged units within a year. How many do we usually lose? I know it varies from year to year, so I would like to know how many units are replaced. I'm asking the question because I would like to know. I hope I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very difficult every time there's a fire. An average of four or five units a year burn down in the Nunavut territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, I believe that it would cost approximately \$500,000 to construct one housing unit if it requires a full replacement. Would it be more expensive to renovate a unit than to construct a new one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, it possibly could, but it varies. When the unit burns down, it depends if it was an apartment or a connected unit, and the location. It would be approximately in that range, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to a different topic, I know it's expensive to pay for rent, and some tenants make good money and others don't make as much. I was wondering if the housing corporation has considered how to lower the rent. The housing corporation has to pay for electricity and heating for the unit. I'm sure the housing corporation has considered having solar energy panels. It could reduce the electricity bills per unit. I was wondering: have you ever considered putting solar panels on housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's a

very good question. It would be ideal to use solar panels and wind energy. We're looking at ways which would be most appropriate and how much it would save us on electricity use. Even as we speak, we're looking at using that in Baker Lake and based on advancements in the technology, we would like to start using it for houses being constructed in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to note that generators consume large amounts of fuel. Gjoa Haven wants more capacity due to shortfalls. It is obvious to residents as we notice many instances of wastage as some buildings remain lit all night long even though they are empty. I wonder if any directives have been issued related to energy conservation or if plans are in place to lower the operating costs by having certain actions undertaken, such as turning lights off in empty buildings.

I would like to use this example. By using snow or other insulating material on the windward side, it would help to lower heating costs and would help insulate the building without using any manufactured materials. I wonder if this has ever been contemplated. I imagine it has been contemplated, as we search for savings in the future, and I would like to be informed about it, hence my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The world is

now moving towards finding ways of how we can be less dependent on fossil fuels. That work is ongoing internationally. The housing corporation has also been trying to do fact-finding on how we can be less dependent on fossil fuels for energy and heating.

There are various ways to generate electricity and sometimes what works very well down south doesn't always work up north. We're looking at the best solutions that can be adapted to the north and we will continue to look at that because we would like to use less fossil fuel. If we use less fossil fuel for heat, then we will be saving money. I believe our goal is to find the best alternative energy options to cut costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. Buildings have to be designed and we have to use proper designs in order to construct housing units. I know that the north is very cold and we live in an extremely cold climate. Do the engineers from Nunavut develop the blueprints or designs or do the engineers from outside the territory do that? If we get a northern engineer to do the blueprints or designs, I believe they would be more appropriate to the cold climate and it would be cheaper. That's not really a question, but I would like to know how the designs are done. That's my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for your good questions. The designs of the public housing units are done by the staff of the housing corporation and they work within the Nunavut territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a short question. I'll start with a short comment. I mentioned earlier that I was pleased to see that Arviat and Whale Cove would be getting housing units, but you will note that I did not take credit for that.

I think an important thing about the public housing allocation formula is that it is based on real numbers that are verified by the housing corporation. I wonder if the minister could explain how important it is to ensure that this formula remains in place in terms of removing the politics, so to speak, from deciding where public housing units go. Just how important is this formula to the housing corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As long as Rankin Inlet will get 30 houses a year, the formula is great. I'm just kidding.

>> *Laughter*

I think it is very important that in any formula that the government has, the politics is taken out of it, that there is a real need there, that there is a formula that works. Until we can find a better

formula, I think we should keep politics out of it. These are Nunavummiut we are trying to house and it's important that we house them as equitably as possible but based by need. I think this formula that is there right now is one that works until we find a better formula.

If you have any ideas in terms of what would work better, I know the gentlemen sitting to my left and right would be more than happy to hear some ideas. The housing corporation is open to ideas, especially when it comes to trying to allocate these houses. It's very popular if you're getting one, but believe me, you can get very unpopular very quickly if houses are not being allocated to communities. I agree it's important to keep politics out of it and we will keep this until we find a better formula that also keeps politics out of it, Mr. Chairman. I hope that answers your question.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. We are at Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$40,302,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Now go to page L-2. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$40,302,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that we have concluded the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Closing

comments, minister. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you very much for your great questions in regard to the housing corporation. The housing corporation is one of the hardest entities to deal with in Nunavut because all the communities are lacking housing and I know there are many people who need a unit, but it's very hard to try to house each and every one of them.

The LHOs try to be fair in allocating the housing units and I compliment the all the LHO board members for the hard work that they do and I do not doubt their abilities. The maintenance workers of the LHOs are very capable. I appreciate them and thank them for their hard work in a very cold climate. Thank you to everyone who works for LHOs. The housing corporation staff who work at the district office never stop working and I thank them.

I also thank you, my colleagues, for your concerns in regard to housing. You can come to my office any time to deal with housing issues. We only can lessen the housing shortage by working together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let's have a great session.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. I will now recognize the clock and report to the Speaker.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table.

**Speaker** (interpretation): We will now proceed. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report progress. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Ms. Ehaloak. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. There being none. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

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

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the regular caucus meets at ten o'clock tomorrow in the Nanuq Committee Room.

*Orders of the Day* for March 13:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address

10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other  
Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First  
Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters
  - Bill 1
  - Bill 2
  - Bill 3
  - Bill 4
20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Clerk.  
(interpretation) This House stands  
adjourned until Tuesday, March 13, at  
1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:18*

