

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet South)

Tom Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

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

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration

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Bills

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Bill 36 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013 –
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 3, 2017

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Tom Sammurток, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>*House commenced at 8:59*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) and visitors, welcome to the House.

Mr. Rumbolt.

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

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the order paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19 on the order paper. Are there any nays? There are none. We will proceed directly to Item 19.

Item 19. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 32, 33, 34, and 35 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 41 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I ask that members remain at their desks so that we can immediately proceed to the Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak)(interpretation): Good morning, people of Baker Lake and all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 32, 33, 34, and 35. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and again good morning. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 34 and the review of the main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation and, if time permits, the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Does the committee agree that we first deal with (interpretation ends) Bill 34?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would now like to ask the Minister of Community and Government Services if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. Thank you.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, minister, please introduce your officials. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Ms. Lori Kimball, the DM and to my left is Mr. Daren Flynn, the ADM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome Mr. Flynn and Ms. Kimball. Yesterday we were on page J-3. Community and Government Services. According to the list of names that I have, Mr. Joanasie.

An Hon. Member: J-7

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are on page J-7

under Infrastructure if I'm correct.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, last year on February 29, 2016 during Committee of the Whole's consideration of the department's 2016-17 main estimates the minister had stated that the Department's Property and Assets Management Division was undertaking a program review to update its maintenance management standards. At that time the minister indicated that this review would help to ensure that the government's preventative maintenance and lifecycle renewal initiatives would support longer lasting buildings and that the review would be completed during this 2016-17 fiscal year.

Can the minister confirm if this review has been completed and if so what specific changes will your department be making to its maintenance management standards, if any? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review is still ongoing. Some of the stuff that we do now if there's any new buildings that are being designed then they are designed to be energy efficient; less energy used than normal like light bulbs, better insulation, better doors, better windows. The review itself is still ongoing but we are getting the best practices to get more energy efficient buildings, whether the building is a hamlet office or a hamlet garage or whatever the case may be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. My apologies to the members, we are on page J-7. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning too. The minister talked a bit about energy efficiency buildings, can he state out of the number of properties and assets that the government has, how many do the government consider to be energy efficient, could you answer that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't talk about how many we think are in the category about being really energy efficient, but the two that I can think of right now are the two new hamlet offices, one was built in Arviat and the other in Cambridge Bay. They have such stuff as the whole buildings, I believe, are LED lighting. I know the one in Arviat is and they have well-sealed doors on there. In that matter too we've got projects where we spend money to make a building or buildings more energy efficient, and then the money is recovered in terms of the efficiencies that we find in operating the building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister state how much cost recoveries are saved through this process of having energy-efficient buildings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact figures, so I can't say we do this and we will save 10 percent or 20 percent. There's a project that will be going ahead in the Kivalliq and \$20 million will be spent and our savings are going to be approximately \$2 million a year. That would be a 10-year recovery on our investment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister clarify if he doesn't have that information or he can get that information? I think it's one or the other. Can the minister clarify? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify that, I don't have the information for any other projects, but I can get the information for Iqaluit because that was a pilot project and that one is done. If the members want, I can give them the figures for Iqaluit's pilot project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Can you hear me? (interpretation ends) Okay.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that. We look forward to that information and any other cost savings that the government incurs when they apply energy-efficient practices on their buildings.

Moving on, according to your draft 2017-2020 business plan one of the priorities, and I'm on page 188 of the business plan right at the bottom, the priorities for fiscal 2017-18, the upcoming fiscal year, is to "Work with the Department of Finance on refining the Government of Nunavut's capital planning process to identify long-term strategic priorities for infrastructure investment."

Can the minister indicate if your department is planning on making any significant changes to the government's capital planning process during the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the initiatives in that aspect is they're forming committee. I know you will probably say, "Well, there are all kinds of committees," but this is another committee that's going to deal with the capital planning process there. The rating criteria and prioritizing criteria may be changed by this committee. We're looking at any efficiencies that would be there and stuff that we already do like the preplanning studies to make sure that before we commit the budget to a project, the project is feasible and viable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there is the Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee. I thought that committee would do the ratings already. Can the minister explain how... he said that there is a new committee that's being formed. Is it one committee, or multiple committees? How would they work in relation to the current Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll clarify for the member that the NCIAC deals with the gas tax, and ICCP GN portion. For clarification the gas tax is 100 percent federally funded. The other is we either put in our share, depending on which project, or we fund it all. If it's with new the Building Canada Fund then we pay 25 percent. This committee will prioritize the GN's projects. They're all GN projects, but GN-funded projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, in this current fiscal year's priorities, you talk about that your department has begun developing the draft improvement measures based on initial feedback from departments and review of a cross-jurisdictional scan of capital planning processes across Canada. The primary focus of the improvement measures will focus on pre-planning for the planning phases of capital planning.

When you did the cross-jurisdictional scan, what did the department find, in terms of best practices? What have you learned through this exercise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct that it's one of the priorities to look at the other jurisdictions. I think one of the outcomes has been that we have to come up with our own prioritization criteria. How can I put this cleanly. We know that down south they have more or less the same system, but they have competition down south. There is a lot more companies that can bid on projects. We are limited by the number of companies that can bid on certain projects. The competition is not quite as fierce up here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that you have to come up with your own priority process. Can he elaborate on that? How is it currently that you prioritize projects to go into the capital planning process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things we've done is taken a criteria whether when we look at a project from three... . If you can look at a check off list. There used to be three that you check off, whether to prioritize it now it's up to ten. All the DM departments get together and they go through the criteria as to which projects should be prioritized because we're all aware that our needs are way more than the funds that we get. It's just a sad fact of life that some projects that are dearly needed don't get approved; we have to approve the ones that are in the most critical need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along that same line he says that departments put in their priority lists but then also there's these he stated ICCP and NCIAC they deal with different funds and then how does that department... . If the department says this is this has to be above this, would your department listen to the... . I'm just trying to I guess for an example if its needed what a community X needs a health centre but community Y needs a school. So health, does it go forward ahead of education? How does your department deal with those kinds of situations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I answer his question I'll just give him a brief explanation about the different funding sources. For example, gas tax is 100 percent funded by the federal government therefore it's included in the capital plan but it doesn't go through the scrutiny and it doesn't need the approvals process as like GN projects, which are funded by the GN.

As for his question for one community that needs a school other one needs a health centre. We'd look at the criteria at which one is more in need, which is older which is more used, what capacity is the school at, what the attendance of the school is, whether there's any work-related health issues are with one or the other buildings.

There are many different criteria that are put to it and it's just based on need. Like I stated earlier our needs are just more than what we are funded with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services Infrastructure. Next name on my list, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, colleagues, minister and his staff and Nunavummiut.

Yesterday my colleague Mr. Enook, touched upon office space strategy. In your answer you said that there were some RFP issues. I'm just wondering what that means, if you can explain that to me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I didn't speak clearly then. RFPs were issued not issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

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

Mr. Akoak: My apologies. I thought I heard issues yesterday, maybe I was sleeping already. Thank you.

In your on page 187, regional infrastructure offices, I've asked about an old building over in Gjoa Haven last year and I didn't really get any answers I don't think but I've been trying to get a building turn into a shelter of some sort.

I'm going to ask if somebody checks the building, who would do the scope of work seeing if it's feasible to renovate a building such as the size of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member can just clearly state. I didn't quite... . Is he talking about GN surplus builds or GN buildings that are going from one department to another. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm talking about an old building that's been sitting empty and it is now being used by three Family Services employees. The building I am talking about now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any government asset buildings, when they are no longer to be used by the department that was using them and the department does not want to use them anymore they are surplus. The department surpluses the building.

We have a process: The way the process works is first it goes to see if any other GN departments want to use that building for their department's uses and if any departments do want to use it then our department assesses it to see if it's feasible to use for the purpose that they want to use it for. It depends on what they want to use it for because there's code that has to be met and stuff like that.

If no GN department wants it then it is surplussed and the hamlets have the first right of refusal to acquire the property. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: How can I put this, Mr. Chairman. We have no other buildings in the community and every building all almost used for something else. As you know all communities in Nunavut, they're always short of people and there's a lot of people on a waiting list and there's a lot of people that are homeless in a sense but they've been taken in by all their families.

I'm trying to find a way to be able to get the building assessed to see if that building would be made available so that it would become a homeless shelter. Would your department be able to go to my community, like tomorrow, to assess it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated to the member there that if the client department surplusses it then it's offered to the departments. If the departments don't want it then the hamlet will have the first right of refusal. I'm not sure where in the process where the old health centre is. I believe it has been surplussed by the client department but I'd have to verify that. I don't know if any other departments want it.

I can feel for the member. I know he's only looking for a building, but it's not our mandate about homelessness but that would be to do with other departments. The process is, if they need a shelter for the homeless then they should be talking to the hamlet there. Once it's surplussed then the hamlet would acquire the building and they can do whatever they want with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The building is in the right place where there's access to other services. It's a perfect place for such as a homeless shelter. I've gone for something else.

For office spaces, I believe I'm just going to use my community again as an example because I know it. They have three people in the old health centre, but I believe there is something out that they will be putting into the present government office. Do you know

when that RFP is going to come out get new offices into that building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't have that information because we work with the client departments. The client departments, when they're going to move out of a building then that's when they would let us know. As for when there will be an RFP issued for any new office space in Gjoa Haven: no, we don't have that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From rumours that I have been hearing that there would be moved into the present government office. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Good morning. *Ullaakkut*. I want to ask a question about codes. Let me just back up a little bit. Remember when the Governor General's office was here and they said the schools were not in compliance with fire code and that. I'm wondering if you could tell me what percentage of facilities within the government at this present time are not in compliance with fire code, or other kinds of codes up to where they should be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that level of detail with us, but any inspections that are done, then the deficiencies are noted and they are issued to the schools or the daycares or whatever is inspected. There should be a follow-up process where they check again to see if the deficiencies are corrected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Apparently, I said Governor General, I meant Auditor General. Sorry. It was kind of alarming when we read that report. It makes me wonder if you have an office that looks after this kind of thing, how do you get to that point at that time? Why were schools and daycares put into that kind of situation? What has changed now so that that never happens again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't comment on how those schools got to that stage before the issues were addressed. To correct it, I believe we do inspections twice a year on schools and other properties now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since you do regular inspections now, I would imagine then you have a pretty good idea of where things are at. I know you say that you don't have that level of detail, but do you know of anything before you that is a real concern at this present time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no major issues right now, because if there was, then we'd be dealing with them to make sure that they weren't big concerns or issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I want to go on to something else, a little bit what my colleague, Mr. Akoak, talked about, about properties. I know as the minister, you said that you don't know what's coming up in terms of an RFP and that, but do you have a list or does the department have a list of properties that are currently up for disposal or have been identified as surplus? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member can just clarify if she's talking about buildings that are going to be surplus or if she's talking about leases that are about to expire, I'm just not clear on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not referring to any leases, just buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying it. We are compiling a list, but each department has to come up with that list of surplus buildings to CGS. We're, I guess you call it, the collector of the lists, but the departments have to give us the information on any buildings that they are not using and they wish to surplus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the minister can tell us what kind of oversight does his department really provide to the other departments. Is there a timeframe they're supposed to get back to you every year, "By this time we want to know what buildings are going to be surplus and what needs to be disposed of"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was no formal process before. It was just the departments did it; there was no timeline and no criteria. Now we're in the process of formalizing it so that each department has to tell us what buildings are surplus. From that master list we would take that and see if any of the departments needed or want the buildings for any use and, if not, then we would dispose of it.

We have heard on many occasions about old government derelict buildings in communities that just sit there and they could be a health hazard or a safety hazard. Those are the kinds of things that we would like to clean up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, too, communities that are in dire need of buildings have to wait so long before and finally when they do hear, sometimes the building gets to that point where it's no longer usable. I'm really happy to hear that you have now a process in place because we need to speed up the process. I remember the member from Sanikiluaq here talking about a building for many years that needed to be disposed of and it just took so long. I'm happy to hear that you're coming up with a process. I think that's going to be very beneficial.

I would like to go to page 188. I know you're talking about and Mr. Joanasie touched on this about the "capital planning process to identify long-term strategic priorities for infrastructure investment." I know that the department deals with different funding agencies. There are different pockets of money; they don't all come from the same place.

Within the GN itself when it comes to capital investment, I am concerned and I have been since I became an MLA about some of the projects that are on the capital list that have... . I understand that we're not talking about capital, but we are talking about the capital planning process. That's right here. Part of the capital planning, I would assume, is impacted by what's already on the list. You have a lot of projects on the list that have been there for a long time.

Throughout this planning process, what kinds of changes are you going to make so that we don't have projects that sit on the plan for years and years? I think one of the reasons why I believe they sit on the plan for a long time is because initial investments were made years back. So they kind of sit there because you know we put \$1 million into the design, now we don't have any money to actually build it. So now it just sits there. The thing is it gets in the way of future developments.

How, as a department, are you guys going to develop that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't comment too much on past practices, but from here forward; it's been an ongoing process where we're having the capital planning process streamlined. We do stuff like pre-planning studies now. We also include now, if it's a replacement of a structure, what they're going to do with that structure so that it doesn't just sit around. Okay, we're getting a new health centre here, therefore, in the old days, we're getting a new health centre and they never really thought about what's going to happen with the old health centre. Now as part of the capital planning, they're going to get a new health centre, okay; the department has to come up with what they're going to do with the old health centre.

I know that's not what you were asking about, just to say the whole capital planning process is trying to fix up for the better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of that capital planning process, as I mentioned, there are old projects that sit on the capital plan that are just continuing to sit there. What is the department's plan? How are you going to address that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure which project she is talking about, but it all comes down to the prioritization of capital projects, because it takes a while from when they want to do something from conception until it actually goes out to tender. All I can say is that is just to do with prioritizing. Sometimes priorities change. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to hearing more about developments in that area, because I think in order to go forward, you're going to have to make some changes when you look at the list.

I want to go a little bit about where you speak about exploring alternative and innovative project delivery mechanisms, such as design build construction. Perhaps I need a little bit of education here about the difference between the traditional design bid build process and the design-build process. I don't understand the difference. Can you please explain to me what the difference is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can explain that to the member, yes. When a project is design built, the RFP goes out. I'll take Cape Dorset for example, the school there. It says we need a school. The school has to be this big. It has to have all these items in it. It's going to be built on this location. That's how the RFP goes out. That's the design built. Whoever gets the successful RFP designs the building with all the specs that are included, and that's what their price is.

The other process is where there are two separate contracts: one is someone gets to design the school, and someone else gets to build it. We put an RFP out saying we want a school, it has to have this, this and this but the RFP is only for the design. Once the design is accepted, then a tender will go out to build that designed school. I hope that's clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It kind of sounds like when you're a homeowner and you want to build your home, you do it all at once. You pay the architect, you tell them what you want, and I guess it's like that.

Do you know yet basically how much money you're going to save? Or the government will save by going through this process and the timing? Do you know anything yet? I know its early days, but so far to date, what have you found out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are pros and cons on both sides. It depends on what the construction is. The example I used with the Cape Dorset school, we did save money on it and we did save time on it but that is not saying that every project would save time and money but in that case it did. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is in Baker Lake. There was an asset that was sold by the government and was transferred to the hamlet but it seems that it has stalled. For that reason, the Baker Lake Hamlet Council had an idea of what the building would be used for and also on the other hand, a society wanted to use the building.

With that being the case, with you as Community and Government Services, how would you deal with that? Who would you surplus it to and who would you support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member just talked about “a building.” I’m not sure what building it is in Baker Lake, but the process of disposal of surplus buildings from the Government of Nunavut is a very straightforward process.

If a client department surpluses a building, it is first offered to other government departments. If there are no other government departments that want it, then it would be offered to the hamlet who has first right of refusal. If the hamlet accepts it, then the GN's involvement is done at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The building that I was referring to was the old DPW building. It’s been sitting idle there because we have the municipality having an idea for that building and a registered society also wants to get to that building.

The minister of the day was aware of the situation but I just wanted to... . My second question here is: as a department you have shut down on old infrastructure building within my community which was used by various groups within the community. Due to the fact of harmful substances within the building, are there any plans of renovating it, or is the decision going toward completely decommissioning it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we don’t have any plans to renovate it. It seems like it would be cost prohibitive to try to resurrect the building due to its age and its condition but we have no plans to replace it either, at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister and officials are aware it’s in a very ideal location was in our community I’m referring to the old health centre. It’s a prime area. In Baker Lake its called the elders block. When you look at that building, will your department be meeting with the municipality of Baker Lake to have a plan of action for decommissioning or is there going to be a study and a full analysis and assessment plan of action to deal with that particular infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The client department would first have to surplus the building no matter what building it is and then CGS Department would look at it and if it is deemed too cost prohibitive or too unsafe then options would look at probably to demolish it. We’re not at that stage yet. We just follow the process but we would not want to turn over a building that was unsafe to anyone. I can’t confirm whether the client department has surplussed a building or not at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the department's decision on this considering the fact that there may be harmful substances within that infrastructure. I guess my question here is what timeline do you have to make a final decision on that particular building? Are we looking at 2-3 months or before the fiscal year-end or before the end of this term of this Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier it's up to the client department to surplus the building. We don't tell the client departments "Okay you have to surplus this building within 30 days." We wait for the client department to surplus any buildings that they deemed are surplus for their needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday at the end of the day the Member for Pond Inlet was asking questions about office space strategy and one question he asked was that which community is in the most critical need of office space and the minister reply was that the Member of Sanikiluaq would probably be happy to hear that I believe that Sanikiluaq is the most dire need for office space.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot say that I am happy to hear that because it's something that I've known for many, many, many years. I've asked many questions in the House on this issue, I've talked a lot of one on ones with ministers and other department members about the issue of office space in my community and I've written letters with suggestions on how to alleviate some of the problems that we have.

Finally the government did their own study and proved to themselves that Sanikiluaq is dire need of office space. Now that we're at that point and everybody agrees that we do need office space in Sanikiluaq what are the next steps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the short term what we have done is we have acquired the use of the old NAC building and we have built offices in there. That's just for the short term. For the long term, once the old health centre is replaced, the plan is to convert it into office space. That's the long-term plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad the minister brought up the use of the old health centre when a new one is built because it brings another question to mind.

The construction on Sanikiluaq's new health centre is due to begin about a year from now. In light of what has happened now with the school burning down in another community, is there a possibility that this project or any other GN projects will be delayed because of this fire? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't comment on whether it will delay other capital projects or not. It is too soon to know what impact the burning of the school in Kugaaruk will have, but if a project is already approved by the House, then generally it goes forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again along the same line of questioning, with the school burning down, you say that it's too early to tell how it will affect the budgets. Do you have any idea how long before the government will be able to give us some idea if this fire will affect any kind of future projects? Thank you.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't answer that question right now. I think that would probably be answered best by either the finance minister or the House here, but it's too early to tell. For example, when the Cape Dorset school burned down, it didn't appear to affect any of the budgets that were slated to go out at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on the subject of office spaces, I have a question for the minister. Welcome. With respect to office space in Nunavut, it is one of the most critical challenges facing us, at least one of the most important issues.

In Grise Fiord the Department of Family Services and I forget which department... I am talking about an antiquated building that I referenced in the past. If you can recall, when it was no longer in use, the inhabitants were moved to a different office that they are now leasing.

I wonder if Resolute Bay's lack of office space is listed in your documents or if it is completely outside of your plans. What is the status of this building? Perhaps you can accommodate my request for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are aware of Resolute Bay and our department has separate offices with no space in the community. Although we are aware of the possible office space that the Department of Family Services is leasing in inappropriate, it is being dealt with. Nonetheless, no office space has been identified for the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that and I imagine I will bring up this question at a later date. With respect to this issue, the construction of the new health centre or actually our old health centre will no longer be in use.

Since the new building has been completed, the old building also surpassed its useful life length and it is quite an old building. There is another building that used to be used as an office building which is older than me. It's probably about 100 years old and it's in my community.

I don't know if there is a safety issue involved but it was renovated and it is now owned by the hamlet. It was used for many years but the issue of safety never came up. I don't know whether I'm getting ahead of myself but there are communities that are lacking office space. Is it possible to have that old health centre retrofitted for office space or as a meeting space for local organizations? Do you have any plans for that old building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Arctic Bay, the health centre will no longer be used and we are aware of that. The client department, the Department of Health, owns that building. When they no longer require that building the government can allocate it to another department but if no other department requires the building, then it would be allocated to the municipality. That is the process we use.

At this time the Department of Health has not said that they require the building currently, so we have not made any decisions as to what the building will be used for once they move to the new health centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My constituents can hear and I'm sure they understand exactly what is occurring. Going on to another topic regarding office space, while we're here I would like to ask a question on page J-7.

The Environment office is very old in the community of Arctic Bay. I will talk about it in two parts. The building is old and I'm not sure when it was last renovated, but I'm sure it will need renovations, and also the building in Resolute Bay. Are they going to be renovated? Do you have any plans to renovate those buildings, or will you be replacing them altogether for Arctic Bay and Resolute Bay? Can you elaborate further on that for me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The office spaces that the member is talking about in Arctic Bay, I know that I have seen it. It is quite old but the client department usually requests renovations or replacement of the building. It is the client department that makes those decisions. It is not our department who makes the decision because they are the ones that have a budget for it. I will speak to the Minister of Environment because the office in Arctic Bay is so old now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Second time around I'll recognize Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just one question. In the Inspection Services on page 188 you have down on-site inspections. How many times a year do you go to each community in all of Nunavut, especially in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker...oh, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I almost got promoted, but Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a pretty broad question because there are many different inspectors for many different things. There are building inspectors, fire inspectors, electrical inspectors, and boiler inspectors. That's just too broad. I can't answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: My apologies to the minister. It's to buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still can't answer that question. We have an electrical inspector for the building. We have a building code inspector for the building. We have many inspections for a building, so I can't answer that question. If someone brings up an issue, then it would be inspected or if there's a new building, then it has to be inspected. In terms of how often we go to places, it's just too broad. I can't answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan on page 188 from 2016-17 to 2017-18, it is increasing by \$871,000. Does that mean you will be doing more inspections? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're putting in more PYs for building inspectors, so yes, in theory we would be doing more inspections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Following the list of names, second round, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware of the fact this question was partially asked and that my question is related to Ms. Angnakak as well as by you, Mr. Chairman, or Mr. Mikkungwak's question related to buildings that are declared surplus buildings.

What I want clarification on is that you stated your department is idly waiting for client departments to notify you of the fact the building is no longer needed or that this equipment is no longer needed. Now buildings and infrastructure, in particular buildings that have recently been vacated, are usually in fairly good shape with not much damage.

However, in the interim between notification from the client department and transferral of ownership, these abandoned buildings become vandalized. If the process was faster, a building not requiring too much renovation becomes no longer usable as your department waits for notification, as I imagine certain legislation applies. However, in this interminable length of time where the department is waiting for notification, the buildings start to deteriorate and the possible useful life of the building is impacted.

Now, as the manager of government infrastructure as well as the maintenance of the buildings, as a government, have you discussed how to fast-track this process? As an example, there should be a directive or policy in place that once a client department decides a building or infrastructure is no longer needed before you allow them a year to make a decision. Do they provide their decision to your department? If there was such a regulation, that way we can utilize those buildings that are no longer being used. Have you ever discussed this matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We started a process almost exactly what the member is envisioning. On an annual basis now, each department is asked whether they have any buildings that are surplus. If there is, then it's dealt with at the DMC level.

Also in the capital planning process, if a building is being replaced, the client departments must have a plan on what they are going to do with the building that's going to be replaced. Are they "surplussing" it? Are they going to keep it for a different use?

So we are working toward a better system where we don't end up with old derelict buildings, like the member said, that could have had another use that end up being old and derelict that are unusable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this was answered many times, but I believe we continually ask this question. The equipment that belongs to the government, when they become surplus, who has the priority for the disposal of the building or asset? Do you inform the public through the media? Can you remind me what the practice you use for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we're talking about infrastructure and buildings, we'll stay with that. The process is when a client department no longer needs a building; the client department will surplus it. It will be first offered to other government departments, if they have any use for it. If all the other departments have no use for it, then the hamlets have the first right of refusal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister had mentioned a report from last year in regard to the construction of infrastructure, the O&M, energy efficient buildings. We have been pleased about energy efficient buildings. Looking at the business plan, it seems like there are no plans for energy efficient buildings. What is the status now? The report that you tabled is just going to collect dust on the shelf, even though we need to use it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any new infrastructure projects that we have, we do spec out that they have to be more energy efficient in both operational costs and in terms of the insulation value. Another project that we've done, the pilot project here in Iqaluit, it's called the Energy Efficiency Retrofit. We spend the money and then we get it back in the savings that we make. If approved, then the next pilot project that will do will be in the Kivalliq for the same project that was done here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's no mention of the energy efficiency program or project. When are you going to start that program again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's an ongoing process. When we spec out any projects that are going to be build in the capital planning process, then we spec out for more energy-efficient structures to lower the energy cost to operate the building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't get a response to my question. When are you going to start this program again? This program will start in the Kivalliq. When will you move on to the Kivalliq? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I talked about the Kivalliq one. That would be in the capital planning process, but it's not O&M. The next step is to do the Kivalliq in the next capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If memory serves, the employees working there have never been paid by the government but are starting to finally receive some compensation. The funds that would have been set aside for that are no longer used. The funds weren't received from government. The private companies speculatively construct the building and the funds earmarked for operations are not used, which are provided to these workers instead. Why does this shortfall of funding accrue to our government when the actual funds for the work didn't come from our government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a bit of a complicated process. The best way I can explain is these projects that are like a mini 3P, it's an accounting process that has been deemed that it's going to be a capital cost. The money is spent by private industry and then we pay the private industry and we get our money back in terms of the savings. For accounting processes, it has been deemed that it's a capital project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be interesting to see that in our immediate future and we expect a completed document that is properly written. That is it for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) It's just a comment. We will take a 10-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 10:18 and resumed at 10:32*

Chairman: I call the committee meeting back to order. Community and Government Services Infrastructure, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me for the second time. I have a few follow-up questions with regard to some of the my questionings we had in relation to the capital planning process and their priorities stated on page 188 of the English business plan.

I'm trying to figure out when you stated identifying long-term strategic priorities for infrastructure investment and given how in Nunavut we have 25 communities; every community has their own needs. Also at the same time every community is different. Population-wise we know Iqaluit is the largest, Resolute Bay is the smallest. Does the capital planning process at any point how does it give weight or how does it consider as a factor as a population of a community and then the investment going into that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital process is evolving, we believe for the better. He is right, there are many factors that are put into there; there's population, there's demographics, the growth rate.

We're trying to predict not just what our needs and priorities are right now we're, trying to come up with a plan so there's probably about a 20-year plan. If you know the X number of community a certain population and their growth rate is really high or its low then you put that into the calculation.

We're trying to make it so we're not always playing "catch up" so that we can plan a bit ahead and try to get our needs in place before they get to that critical state. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Still along the same lines, I'll use Iqaluit and Grise Fiord as an example and to the populations, statuses, statistics and that's factored into capital planning process and growth rate, that sort of thing. We know that they're not going to put a \$300 million airport in Kimmirut or Grise Fiord for that matter.

How does your department through the capital planning process make it equitable for the “have not” communities? We know every community is different, is there a mechanism where some put of measure in your capital planning process to allow equity in investment for our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier with the new capital planning process, we have 10 different criteria now that are looked at, as opposed to there used to be 3. I can't say what those 10 priorities right now but I've been informed that there are 10.

The way capital planning process works is each department puts in their capital plan and then the committee looks at the plan; obviously there's not going to be enough money for all of the departments' needs. That is prioritized. There's different criteria that have to be met in order for the ones that are going to go ahead. Once they're put in place then they're brought here to the House and then everyone here asks questions and if they agree with that priority then it's approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I appreciate the minister's response on that. What I'm trying to bring out is that we often hear of either the larger communities or regional centers gaining more; whether if it's infrastructure investments. Also we have to recognize the other communities that go without. I'm just trying to put out that perhaps we should maybe, in our capital plans, start identifying how we can have a more balanced or equity in terms of some communities. I'll use Kimmirut as an example; they've been fighting for a new airport since over 30 years and they'll continue pushing forward another 30 years until it's built.

We know a new airport here in Iqaluit will be built for over \$300 million and I appreciate that priorities are identified and then they're brought into the House but in more of a transparent way, we want to see how those priorities are determined and maybe we can work towards how we can have a better system place that recognizes the communities that go without and maybe in the future that one day Kimmirut will have a new airport. I'll just that as a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I take that as just a comment. Community and Government Services. Infrastructure. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$108,790,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. The remaining branches are information items, but I believe members have questions on the Petroleum Products Division. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a couple of questions in this department for petroleum products.

I know there has been talk in the past about tank farm compliances and I think it was in 2012 that it came into force about tank farm systems, petroleum products and allied petroleum product regulations.

I wonder if the department can update us today on how many tank farms in Nunavut are still not in compliance with these federal regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that, but as I've stated on earlier occasions that CGS, or the GN, has talked with Environment Canada and they have agreed that they will allow the in-compliance to be fixed as we upgrade our fuel tanks, so that it is not an added cost. They've just given us a little more time to become compliant on the fuel tanks and eventually all tanks will be compliant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that Environment Canada has given them a little more time to become compliant. Did Environment Canada give them any kind of deadline on when they want all the tank farms to be in compliance with the regulations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information because it's a part of the capital plan. It's not O&M so I don't have that information here with me.

The ones that were being worked on are done and are compliant now, but not all of the fuel tanks are compliant yet. All will be, but it's a part of the capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize it might be a capital item but I wonder if the minister can give us any indication of when he expects that all of our tank farms will be compliant. Thank you.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I don't have that information here. I remember reading it, but it's bouncing around in my head right now and I wouldn't

want to give him the wrong information. I'm not sure but we can get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to change the subject a little bit, and it goes back to my opening comments from yesterday where I talked about CanNor providing funding to some arctic coop businesses to help them expand their fuel truck garage facilities in eight communities across Nunavut.

Some members feel that this may give an unfair advantage to Arctic Co-operatives in the future when bidding on future contracts where any other private business may not have the same infrastructure now.

I'm just wondering if the department feels that this could give an unfair advantage to future contracts for petroleum products. Thank you.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member is aware, this is a federal program and we have no say in it. I found out about it probably the same way as everyone else when we read about it in the media.

The funding that they got to expand the garages was after the contracts were issued, it was not before. In the RFP process, there was no advantage for anyone else. We have our contracts set up in a way now that they are ten-year contracts, so that whoever gets the contract will can use the length of the contract to the bank as leverage to get funding. I can't comment on programs that we have no control over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. About a year ago we had a discussion about the fuel distribution process, and that Iqaluit was treated differently. I think at that time you had said that the department was going to review that process. Can you give us an update today on what you found out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't done the review. We've had staffing and capacity issues with PPD. So we're not done the review. Before the RFP goes out, the review will be completed as to which is the best system for the people of Nunavut and the GN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us when he thinks that RFP will be coming out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the contract is for almost another year. I don't have the figures in front of me, but it's not that far away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that I have found out about how government sets fuel prices, one of the components that have to do with cost to ship and the cost to distribute. How varied is that cost across Nunavut? What are the extremes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't say what the extremes [are]. What I can say is that the costs are higher for transportation in the Kitikmeot, that's why they have higher prices there. The further it is from where the product is loaded onto the ship, then the higher it is and the number of times that the ship has to unload, in terms of each time it stops to unload, it costs more. For example, it comes here to Iqaluit and it dumps off its whole load and then it's empty. If it has to go to five different communities, then that cost is built into that. I can't give members the actual costs and what extreme costs. The Kitikmeot has the highest cost because they're the furthest from the source of the fuel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go one other area, and that's the stabilization fund. As I understand it, the limit is either plus or negative \$10 million, after which a remittance is required. As of today, where do you stand on that fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the figures right now, but we expect that the end of this fiscal year we will be in a surplus, below the \$10 million threshold. I just want to explain a bit about why it takes so long to figure out where we are, in terms of fuel prices and stabilization fund.

We are fixing the system or making it better, easier, and simpler by having one regional price and one customer price per community. Until this was done in January 30, before that each community had its own pricing system and there was up to 14 different customer prices per community depends on if you are a business, if you paid cash, if you

were the government, if you are a private industry or private person. So now we've streamlined it so that there's only one price per community and one price per region.

In the next year we will be able to tell you what the stabilization funds are at a lot easier than we can now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think anything that's simplified is always a good thing in my books.

Just one more question, your recent fuel products supply and transportation contract to Woodward's so this time they agreed not to charge PPD for storage in Hamlin whereas before the government was charged .02 per litre. What kind of savings did you get from this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll use the Minister of Finance's line, "Mr. Chairman I don't have that level of detail." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the minister be able to provide this to the House and go and get that level of detail so that we can have a better idea?

Furthermore, there seems to be a new situation where he's not charging or Woodward's is not charging us for storage. Does his department know if this arrangement will continue further on in the years to come? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would think it will this is not new it just didn't happen this year it been going on for a few years I cant tell the member exactly when it started but it just didn't start this year its been going on awhile. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak. Go to J-3. Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$241,299,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded the Department of Community and

Government Services. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank all the... First I'd like to thank my two staff that are here and I'd like to thank their staff that give us all this information most of the information that we need at our fingertips, there's some stuff that are just a little too detailed we can only take so much here unless we get a bigger table.

>>*Laughter*

I thank all the members for their questions and their concerns and this is the process we give you our budget and if you agree with our budget then it's passed and it's a process that works and I thank everyone for their time and their interest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I almost forgot like yesterday. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the staff out. Thank you.

I ask members to remain in their seats as we prepare for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Kuksuk.

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes, I would like to have my officials here with me. Thank you very much.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation) Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) For the record, minister, please introduce your officials. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Nunavummiut and my colleagues.

With me this morning to my left firstly is Curtis Allaby, acting CFO for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my right this morning is my deputy minister, President of the Housing Corporation and CEO Terry Audla. That's who we are this morning. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Welcome to the House, Mr. Audla and Mr. Allaby. You can now proceed with your opening comments, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members. I am very pleased to meet with the members of the Committee of the Whole today to discuss the 2017-18 main estimates and business plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The GN funding for the Nunavut Housing Corporation for fiscal year 2017-18 will increase by \$3,473,000 from the 2016-17 main estimates. The increase includes:

- \$1,058,000 to cover the reduction in CMHC funding per the Social Housing Agreement.
- \$1,087,000 to cover increases in public housing utilities, property taxes, leases, and LHO administration and maintenance costs.
- \$1,328,000 to cover staff housing operations.

As NHC's public housing portfolio increases so do the costs of maintaining our units. One hundred and two new units are scheduled to be added to the public housing stock during 2017-18. The budget increase will cover increased costs of maintenance and administration, utilities, property taxes, and leases.

Similarly, new staff housing stock means increased operating costs. In 2017-18, 93 new staff housing units are expected to be either constructed or leased. Budget increases will cover increased cost of maintenance, utilities, LHO and agency fees, and furnishings.

In 2016 the GN, led by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, completed its *Blueprint for Action on Housing* for the implementation of the *GN Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy*. The blueprint outlines 60 concrete actions that the GN must undertake in order to properly address the territory's housing crisis. NHC's business plan reflects the first steps to implement these actions and the collaboration between departments that is required to achieve positive outcomes.

As the need for public and affordable housing in Nunavut continues to grow and the costs of maintaining units rise, federal funding will be increasingly critical to ensuring that the housing needs of Nunavummiut are met.

In 2017-18 the Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to work closely with provincial and territorial colleagues to lobby the federal government for increased

funding for both capital and operating costs of social housing in Nunavut. This year will be particularly important for lobbying as Canada develops its National Housing Strategy.

As another important piece of addressing the housing crisis and improving corporate operations, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be working hard through 2017-18 to increase its training and development for Inuit employees, including developing a strong local workforce at our local housing organizations. This continues to be a significant priority for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, as outlined in our business plan.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2017-18 main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Does the co-chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations on its review of the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The standing committee notes that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2017-18 operations and maintenance budget of \$199,843,000 has increased by approximately 1.9 percent since the introduction of its 2016-17 main estimates. The number of positions in the Nunavut Housing Corporation is 116. This is an increase of two positions from the 2016-17 main estimates.

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

On October 20 of 2016 the *Blueprint for Action on Housing – Implementation Plan for the Government of Nunavut Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This important document contains 60 specific action items to address a broad range of housing issues.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2017-2020 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "...co-ordinate an interdepartmental workshop to assess outcomes of the Blueprint for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, and identify activities for the following year. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will also develop an annual Status of Housing Report to be tabled in the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly." The standing committee welcomes this commitment and looks forward to reviewing progress towards the implementation of the blueprint for action.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2017-2020 business plan indicates that the corporation is "working on improvements to the Management Agreement with Local Housing Organizations. The updated Management Agreement will clarify the relationship

between [the] Nunavut Housing Corporation and Local Housing Organizations, and standardize program delivery and reporting requirements of Local Housing Organizations.”

As members will recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s Master Management Agreement was referred to the Committee of the Whole for detailed consideration earlier in the present Assembly. The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of an annual updated master management agreement.

In June of 2011 amendments to the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act* were passed by the Legislative Assembly. These amendments provided for the establishment of a board of directors for the corporation. The standing committee is pleased to note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s two most recent annual reports have included significantly more detail concerning board activities than in previous years’ annual reports.

In 2004 a Member of the Legislative Assembly posed a detailed written question concerning public housing rental arrears and tenant damages. The government’s response indicated that as of November 2004, approximately \$6.6 million was owed in public housing rent arrears to local housing organizations across the territory.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2014-15 annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5 of 2015, indicated that, “...over \$27.0 million in rental arrears currently owed to the Nunavut Housing Corporation could pay for the construction of almost 60 new public housing units.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2016-19 business plan indicated that it had “established a working group, including Local Housing Organization representatives, to review and develop an arrears reduction strategy. The overall 2014-2015 collection rate was 88.38%; with 10 communities achieving a collection rate of 97% or higher.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2015-16 annual report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 8 of 2016, indicates that there was a total of \$30,644,893 in “rent receivables” owing as of March 31, 2016. The “collection rate” has decreased from 89.6 percent in 2013-14 to 83.8 percent in 2015-16.

The 2015-16 annual report also indicates that “The Nunavut Housing Corporation is exploring the feasibility of effecting payroll deductions for Government of Nunavut staff in public housing. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Family Services to allow Income Assistance clients’ rent payments to be paid directly to Local Housing Organizations. This will cover the majority of our clients as at least 75% of our public housing tenants are on social assistance.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2017-2020 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to “continue to monitor and review impact of collections policy and procedures to reduce LHO arrears, as well, develop and implement LHO deficit recovery

plans.” The standing committee looks forward to regular updates on the status of these initiatives.

On January 24 of 2013 the Government of Nunavut announced changes to the public housing rent scale. These came into effect on February 1 of 2014. A key goal to reforming the public housing rent scale has been to remove disincentives to employment. However, the extent to which the new rent scale has achieved this goal remains unclear.

The standing committee notes that the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s *Blueprint for Action on Housing* indicates that one of its specific action items is to “...review best practices related to various models of subsidized housing as alternatives to rent- geared to income. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will review possible development of a fixed-rent subsidized housing model targeting high-income public housing tenants; particularly those currently paying maximum rent in public housing. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will explore avenues to support the creation of more collective ownership options, such as cooperative housing and community land trusts.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s *Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* states that “staff housing should provide new employees who move into market communities with a home until they become settled. Then these employees should be encouraged to move into the private sector or discouraged from remaining in staff housing.”

The standing committee encourages the Nunavut Housing Corporation to carefully consider the full range of incentives and disincentives that could be applied to this area within the context of the government’s *Staff Housing Policy*, and notes that one of the corporation’s priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year is to “issue a Request for Proposals to conduct an external review of the current Government of Nunavut Staff Housing Policy. The review will consider other potential methods to meet the housing needs of Government of Nunavut employees.”

The 2016-17 *Ministerial Letter of Expectation to the Chairperson of the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s Board of Directors* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 7 of 2016. The letter of expectation states in part that the corporation is expected to provide a “yearly comprehensive report on all procurement, contracting and leasing activities.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2014-15 annual report on contracting and procurement activities was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 16 of 2016. The 2015-16 annual report has not yet been tabled.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s budget for its homeownership programs is funded through its annual capital estimates. The corporation’s 2017-18 capital estimates, which were approved by the Legislative Assembly during its fall 2016 sitting, included a total of \$4,616,000 in funding for homeownership programs.

On November 2 of 2016 the minister announced that the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program will be modified so that “...only Nunavummiut [who] have lived in

the territory for one year or more will be eligible to receive a forgivable loan to support the purchase of a new or existing home.” These changes come into effect on April 1 of 2017. The standing committee applauds the minister for responding to members’ longstanding concerns regarding the need for a residency requirement to be introduced for this program.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Are there any general comments? (interpretation ends) I want to remind members that the contents of the minister’s opening comments are covered in the different branches of the department. If you have detailed questions, please ask them under the appropriate branches.

Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Page L-3. Total operations and maintenance, to be Voted. I have the list of names. Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Welcome Minister and your staff. On October 20, 2016, you tabled the Blueprint for Action Implementation for the GN Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

What is the approximate cost of implementing the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the member’s question, outside of the budget we don’t have any other funding, other than the main estimates. It’s in there so we’re dealing with it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The *Blueprint for Action on Housing* contains 60 specific action items. How is the Nunavut Housing Corporation deciding which specific actions to prioritize in the 2017-18 fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The *Blueprint for Action on Housing* outlines how the NHC is deciding

specific actions to prioritize. The Nunavut Housing Corporation worked with stakeholders outside of the government and also within the various government departments and we've worked with the GN departments and we are working on the prioritization of the action plan. We also consulted with the regional Inuit associations; Kivalliq, Kitikmeot and Baffin regions, and even national entities such as the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

We work with them and they identified priorities and also, when we were working on the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*, we identified what needs to be contained within it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2017-20 Business Plan indicates that "To support the implementation of the Blueprint for Action, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will coordinate an interdepartmental workshop to assess outcomes of the blueprint for the 2017-18 fiscal year and identify activities for the following year. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will also develop an annual status of housing report to be tabled in the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly."

How will this report be different from the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current annual reports? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the member's question on the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* report, it will be tabled on how it will be different from our NHC's annual report.

The contents at this time, Mr. Chairman, I want my colleagues to know that the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*, after it was tabled, all the action items will continue and in that report it will state where we're at with the action items. We will be tabling the progress report in the House on the action items from the action plan.

We will be putting together a progress report for the House, but this will continue because there are many action items we need to complete so as we progress we will be issuing reports and tabling them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2017-20 Business Plan states, and again I quote, "Each public housing unit requires more than \$26,500 per year to operate and maintain, however, the funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for

the social housing inventory which was transferred to the corporation in 1996 is declining and will terminate completely in 2037.”

Have you raised this issue in person with the new federal Minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and if so, what was the minister’s response? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague for his question. CMHC has been providing funding and it has been declining and it will terminate completely in 2037. The dire lack of housing in Nunavut is so huge, we lack housing and we’ve been working with the other territorial governments such as the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the Yukon Housing Corporation, by working together as northern territories. We had an FPT meeting last fall during the first minister’s conference dealing with housing issues.

We worked and met together with the federal minister of CMHC but I can tell the member by working together and by the three territories working together, we’re working as one, and the other provinces understand where we’re at. I know that the funding will decline and eventually terminate though we definitely will need additional funding for public housing and the government will have to provide that funding for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. T. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2017-20 business plan indicates that, “Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit associations participating in the development of the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* and are identified as supporting partners in several actions within the blueprint. NTI and the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s senior management met several times throughout the development of the blueprint for action. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is engaging with NTI and RIAs to inform the development of the federal government’s national housing strategy to be completed in the fall of 2017.”

What specific resources is NTI contributing with respect to housing related issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, working on the blueprint for action is continually going. RIAs and NTI participated in the development of the blueprint for action and we’ll continue to work with these two entities.

Mr. Chairman, in regard to NTI contributing with respect to housing related issues if I understood the member's question, personally I cannot respond to exactly what kind of contribution they had made to the blueprint for action. Perhaps it would be better if my deputy can respond to the question because this is a daily operation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. For clarity, Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In response to question on our collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit associations on the aspect of our lobby efforts with respect to trying to finalize a housing strategy, the CHMC has approached the Inuit organizations on a separate occasion, but what we have done is to ensure that the same messaging is being conveyed back to CMHC. In that sense we have been working collaboratively in that way, as well as the recent Senate report that was released yesterday where there were joint submissions with respect to the Senate committee at that point.

We have all the same understanding with respect to what's needed here in Nunavut. We're going to continue with that collaboration with NTI on the development of the National Housing Strategy. We do have that commitment and we are going to be working continually and closely with Nunavut Tunngavik and the regional Inuit associations to that end. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) We are dealing with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Following my list of names, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Kuksuk. Before I go to my line of questioning, I wish to welcome you as I know that some properly prepared projects sometimes don't move ahead.

I know for a fact this upcoming summer, that various communities will have building construction projects and this is pleasing to hear about. I just wish to remind the minister, that either through the difficulties of obtaining lots or whatever problems the department faces in any of our communities where construction projects are to go ahead, if any problems arise, and if you had to choose a new community, Pond Inlet will welcome you with open arms.

The area with vacant lots where buildings are being constructed already has an access road, and the utility infrastructure is completed, so I just wanted to remind my friend the minister. Let me ask this question.

I have referenced this in the past, related to the agreement between the LHOs and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The response in the past indicated a new agreement was in the works, and that it will clearly lay out the responsibilities and roles of each organization.

Are you able to divulge some of the newer parts of the agreement under consideration, and which areas in particular will change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I also thank my colleague and further, related to his commentary before posing his question was a reminder to me. I thank him for that reminder. When I get reminders, I appreciate it.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to his question, the actual barriers if I understood his question correctly related to the local housing associations, and an agreement with the NHC as an example, if I state it in English would be a (interpretation ends) management agreement (interpretation) and whether the member was alluding to these agreements?

Okay, I understood that. With respect to the actual details, and which areas will be amended, personally I don't have that level of detail as this process hasn't resulted in a document for my perusal, however, work has begun and obviously, my deputy minister would have that information as to where the process is, and details related to the members' question. With your forbearance, Mr. Chairman and I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. The management agreements we are negotiating with the local housing associations are currently being reviewed.

This is the first series of adjustments and amendments we just recently reviewed, and we have clearly identified the local LHOs that will be part of this new management agreement who will form part of the review working group.

It is clear that the Pond Inlet housing manager is involved in this working group, and we will be travelling to the communities to explain the new management and to see what their thoughts are on the terms of the agreement. We just want to explain that the management agreement we want to make them clearer to understand and more to the point as to where their authorities are, how they would operate housing and what the board would be able to decide on. With the financial contributions that they get every year, how that would be managed, it's a continuing process. I'm proud to say that our staff are always working with the local housing authorities to see how things can be improved.

I know this fall we should have the agreements done and they won't all be agreed to at the same time all the 25 communities, it's a progressive thing. For example in Pond Inlet they have a new management agreement and if they approve it they can sign it. If it was

running fine then they can just sign the agreement and keep going and other communities will be visited to see how they feel to be consulted about the new management agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I understand it this way, so each community has their own agreement, a master agreement, that's what you have stated in your documents but the implementation of the agreement won't all be happening at the same time.

As you stated maybe this early winter the deputy minister just stated maybe this early winter they will be implemented. Do I understand correctly that there will be no agreement implemented during the life of this House it will only come out after the elections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to give you a clear answer.

The agreements that we have right now with the LHOs or authorities and the Nunavut Housing Corporation right now as to what the agreements are or how the agreements are, there was a question about the details as to what changes what main changes there will be that comes out of the review as when we will be able to show you the changes.

We won't be able to bring out the agreements for all the communities right away we'll have to work on them one at a time there's 25 communities in Nunavut so that means as my deputy minister stated we can expect it to be completed after 2017 year we will be able to explain the changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for responding. With the communities they follow the agreements and they have to follow certain things. They have to follow the *Societies Act* and also they have to present a budget. Can you tell us today in Nunavut communities the housing boards are not keeping up? If you understand me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I sort of understand the question, but if I didn't understand it properly, I may not respond properly as to what we haven't kept up with. Can the member explain the question further? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Can you please re-phrase your question, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm trying to say is local housing boards in the communities, according to the agreement, they're supposed to bring out a different report like financial reports, or what they're supposed to initiate every year as a housing board. Do you have any communities that haven't been able to do that? (interpretation ends) Are there any local housing associations not in good standing with the *Societies Act* or other annual statements that they need to be producing?

(interpretation) I hope that the minister now understands my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I understand the question now, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the question. Up to now, looking at our local housing associations. Have they completed all their reporting requirements? Yes, they have. They have been keeping up. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Colleagues (interpretation ends) we will now take a break for lunch and report back at 1:30 pm.

>>*Committee recessed at 11:43 and resumed at 13:27*

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole, the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Next name on my list, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, everyone and welcome back.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2015-16 annual report that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 8, last November, indicated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is exploring the feasibility of effecting payroll reductions for GN staff in public housing.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is finalizing, I understand, a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Family Services and this will allow income assistance clients' rent payments to be paid directly to LHOs. This will cover the majority of our clients, as at least 75 percent of our public housing tenants are on social assistance.

As of today what is the status of these two initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member. Mr. Chairman, with respect to her question about the two initiatives,

they're still being worked on and the department that she referred to, (interpretation ends) Family Services, (interpretation) is involved in the work that we're doing on it. The work hasn't been completed yet and handed to me, so I don't have anything to report on that at this moment. It is still being worked on. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go to a different topic. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* states that staff housing should provide new employees who move into market communities with a home until they become settled then these employees should be encouraged to move into the private sector or discouraged from remaining in staff housing.

What specific options are currently being considered to encourage employees to move out of staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That means that our staff who live in staff houses, GN staff. If I understood the question, what have we done to encourage our staff while they're living in staff housing; our staff have more than one option that they can choose to go through; they can purchase their own house, they can pursue homeownership. We want them to end up having their private home and get out of staff housing that is what we're really encouraging our staff to do because they are more able to afford private houses than other people that don't have jobs so our staff who live in staff houses, we want them to buy their own houses and improve themselves and if they are staying at public housing especially because of our lack of public housing, we would prefer if they bought the staff house so that more public housing can be made available for regular people.

That's how we encourage our staff to get them to buy their own houses or if they're staying at the public housing, get out of public housing so that more needy people can use public housing. That's how we've set it up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us how many employees that were in staff housing have moved out of staff housing to go into their own homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As to exactly how many there are, we don't have that information in front of us. We can look into this to see

if we can get the figures but right now as to how many staff, I don't have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister saying that they don't track that at all or they just don't have the information today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk: That is correct. We don't have the information. As well we don't have a tracking system on that currently. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I would encourage them to look into doing that then you kind of know where you are with things otherwise the dependency will always be there.

Speaking about that, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2017-20 business plan also indicates that it will hold an initial planning meeting with the Department of Finance to analyze current staff housing subsidies to determine subsidy levels that encourage transition out of staff housing and that will also hold an initial planning meeting with the Department of Finance to establish a framework to guide a review of the current prioritization system and process for allocating staff housing units and reallocating vacant units. When do you think all of these meetings are going to happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to explain where we're at now with our meetings with the Department of Finance if it's okay with you Mr. Chairman, I would like him to provide the details. Thank you.

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

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. To sort of capture everything that you asked with responses from the minister as well. Under the Blueprint for Action under the key issue of meeting the housing needs of GN employees, actions 20, 21, 22 and 23 sort of identify and answer the question. We are currently working towards conducting a survey of staff housing tenants to gauge interest for home ownership under action 20 with the timeframe where we see it in the short term where in the year one activities starting April 1 we hope to hold initial meetings between Finance and housing corporation to begin a development of a survey tool to support an employee survey.

Following that the action 21 where we're looking to review and revise the current GN staff housing policy and followed by action 22 where we'll have analyze current staff housing subsidy to determine subsidy levels that encourage transition out of government-subsidized housing.

Action 23 where we review the current procedures for use of existing staff housing stock. We have been in initial discussions with the Department of Finance, we're currently looking at the methodology of how we're going to conduct those surveys. Also to look at in larger centres such as in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay of considering the private market, what is available currently, what are the possibilities of success with respect to staff transitioning out of GN-subsidized housing.

As you well know that limited option that we have in communities outside of those major centres is something that we're going to have to really look at closely as well because we do want to expand that continuum of available housing be it for the private market, home ownership, condo program, co-op housing. All of that type of housing that could be options. We're hoping to do this in the immediate term within one year; we're currently in negotiations right now with a consultant to scope out the actual type of survey that we want and to try to make that determination as to what the best approach may be.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your response that's a good response. When you talk about transition and that it could become a little hard because renewing government housing you're subsidized and everybody likes to be subsidized. I guess my question is I know you said that you were going to do some research and that, but do you think that the government is prepared to reduce staff housing subsidies for high income employees? If you had for example, I'm just using as an example if you had two DMs and they were married to each other in one house, is that something that you feel as a department is the right thing to continue to do or do you think that there will be changes made there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like my deputy minister to continue with the response to that line of questioning. Thank you.

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

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As it stands right now, as part of the, let's say for example, Action 22 where we're looking to analyze current staff housing subsidies to determine subsidy levels that encourage transition out of government-subsidized housing, in the context of whether there are individual

positions or staff that make a certain amount salary-wise, whether that is a position that either needs a subsidy or is making enough money that they don't need it, that's something that we will have to determine in collaboration with the Department of Finance as to whether or not it would be something that we would look at. It's certainly something that is worthwhile discussing. From that point we will make the best determination as to how to best approach that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my other question then is you made reference to having an external review of the GN housing policies and I understand they're going to issue a request for proposals. When is the RFP scheduled to be issued? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We expect to have the RFP out this fiscal year before March 31. Thank you.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's right around the corner.

I want to go to something else. I want to ask some questions on the local housing organizations. Your 2015-16 annual report indicates that there is a total of a little over \$30 million in rent receivables and that your collection rate decreased from 89.6 percent. It was 89.6 percent in the 2013-14 fiscal year and in the 2015-16 fiscal year it decreased to 83.8 percent. Can the minister tell us what factors account for that decrease in the collection rate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the rent receivables, we have to work closely with the local housing authorities. The local housing authorities know how high the rent receivables are and under which category where the arrears are the largest, and our local housing associations have been consulted on ways and means to lower the rental arrears, as in total that arrears are very high.

As we have stated in the past, we would be able to construct many units if the entire rental arrear amount was paid off. Due to the size of this debt this is where we are, however, we have to look at options and we continue to try and assist the LHOs.

There are many reasons that result in the arrears and collections of rental arrears, and particular reasons for lowering the rental arrears is our focus, so, Mr. Chairman, I can't

state a particular reason for this, as we haven't identified it. However, we are continually looking for ways to brainstorm on ways to lower the arrears.

We continue to work on this file, but, there is no specific answer to the members' question and with the various reasons that result in the inability of the renters to pay off their rental arrears. We don't have a simple singular reason why we have arrived at this stage, and we can't answer with a simple reason. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Just looking at the difference in percentages out of a lot of money there, I think it accounts for quite a lot of money. I find it kind of hard to believe if you guys don't really know what factors account for the decrease. Maybe back then you had better managers that would be able to collect or what. Perhaps the president can give us his thoughts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, the president can make a supplementary to the comments I made, if it's okay with you Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. It's not a matter of the effectiveness of the managers being that we only have one person in the collections and mortgages position. When you compare that to the NWT, they have six positions whereas we only have the one.

That individual has been quite diligent in trying to work with the local tenant relations officers to ensure that collection is happening and it varies from community to community. Some communities, their collection rate is over 100 percent, in some communities, the lowest is 64 percent.

Each year it changes depending on individual tenants' capabilities or want of contributing to paying their rent. If you notice in the committee chair's opening statements, there was a suggestion that we have been working towards trying to address that amount of arrears in working with Family Services for example looking at the income support clients because we feel in looking at the numbers that the \$30 million or so in arrears 75 percent of them stem from potential income support clients.

Once we work with Family Services to see what we can do to address that so that rather than, as it stands right now, the policy is they're given a cheque for rent and then it's their prerogative to turn around and hand that physical cheque to the LHO. That doesn't happen for whatever reason.

What we're hoping to do is rather than giving that cheque physically to the tenant, they actually cut that cheque to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We're hoping that addresses a lot of it, 75 percent maybe, and we're always looking to see what we can do better. We're hoping to get a communications person into the corporation to assist in working with the local tenant relations officers and LHOs so that every single tenant that is in public housing knows and understands that they do have that responsibility on a monthly basis and hopefully that will go a long way.

As it stands, we're doing as best as we can with the current one position that we have, but the district managers and directors as well are working hard and being diligent in ensuring that all collection is happening as much on a regular basis as well. It's something that we're trying to get on top of. We feel confident that in our discussions with Family Services, a lot of it will be addressed, but it will be a matter of time before we actually know the effectiveness of that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the president for his response. It's informative.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2017-2020 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year is to develop and implement LHO deficit recovery plans. As of today which LHOs are in deficit and what is the size of each LHO deficit? I don't know if that was already asked or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For example, there are 4 out of 25 LHOs that are in deficit: Cambridge Bay, Hall Beach, Pangnirtung, and Rankin Inlet. Those are the local housing organizations that are in a deficit situation. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us what are the usual reasons for an LHO to get into a deficit position where the others are not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond if it's okay with you. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again, each community varies in the sense of why it is that they would get into a deficit situation. It could be damages to the unit, freezing of pipes, unexpected instances where we would have to do emergency repairs, or tenant damages. Each community would be different for the reasons as to why they would end up in a deficit situation. I hope that sort of answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I don't understand how the LHO operates then. So you're talking about their own office like if something freezes up or what were you referring to, were you referring to local public housing units in the communities or the LHO's own operations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer this question to Curtis. I would like him to respond to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Allaby.

Mr. Allaby: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. So to answer that question, it's really the maintenance of the public housing units itself it is the bulk of the expense of each local housing organization. So it's not so much the administration of their own offices that would lead to any deficit it's actually events that happen in each of the housing units they are responsible for maintaining. Further to the initial response, I'd just like to say that another big factor that contributes to LHO deficits is lower collection rates on rental assessments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the department can tell us, what are the key elements of LHO deficit recovery plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): I would like to refer this question to Mr. Allaby. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Allaby.

Mr. Allaby: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. So when formulating a deficit recovery plan, the Nunavut Housing Corporation partners with local housing organizations. Normally it's through our community development officer finance position. We send Nunavut Housing Corporation staff into the community to work with

the local housing organization to understand the drivers of their expenditures and what may be causing their deficit.

We take a detailed look at each of the individual line items on LHO financial statements and try to identify exactly what is driving those expenditures and trying to figure out if there are areas for efficiency and then work with developing a plan that can be sustainable. So we don't necessarily expect an LHO with a significant deficit to come out of deficit within one year or two years even but we look at developing a long-term plan that allows the LHO to continue to maintain the units at a suitable level and still generate enough surpluses over the year to repay back to that deficit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: That's why I was waving, I wanted to ask him another question. You made reference to a bit of a timeline but I'm wondering from the four that was identified as being in the deficit position, how many of these have been in a deficit position for longer than two years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me mention them that are in deficit situation for over two years.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Minister and your officials. I'm going to start off with the Inuit employment plan on NHC 19 in your business plan. It outlines the figures from September 30, 2016 and within your business plan it states the goal is to complete by March 31, 2018 next year.

These are categorized in these reports, and if we read the particulars here, it speaks to upper management positions down to the bottom scale. One thing I have noted here is the (interpretation ends) middle management (interpretation) positions where only five percent of positions out of the twenty-two positions equalling one position held by an Inuk.

With that being the reality, I wonder if the NHC is focussing on this area where middle management positions can be filled by Inuit and due to that challenge, what has NHC undertaken to fill more positions with Inuit beneficiaries? What has the NHC done to increase the numbers, as five percent equalling one position is the lowest amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that excellent question. I'm looking for information that is in front

of me in regard to Inuit employment targets. Although we have it, if the deputy minister can find it, he can respond to the question, Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence.

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

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. For the March 31 Inuit employment target positions, the housing corporation has filled 100 percent of their target positions. Three additional NHC positions outside of the Inuit employment targets were also filled with Inuit and the housing corporation has reached an overall milestone of 38 percent as of September.

In the priorities we are committed to supporting Inuit staff through performance management, on-the-job training, and by encouraging continuous learning. Our Inuit Employment Plan Committee continues to support the corporation's initiative to identify areas for employee succession, including surveying existing staff to determine interest in advancement and finding ways to adapt existing programs to suit the needs of the employees.

Also within the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* we have identified local workforce development as a key issue facing Nunavut. The document sets out several actions that would not only develop the local workforce, but to work to eventually increase Inuit employment rates within the housing corporation.

As an example, in our Arviat district office, this is something that we don't like to do, but if the local housing authority in Arviat, who have 100 percent Inuit employment and 33 staff, if they are willing to come over to our district office to work to gain more experience within the district aspect within the housing corporation, we do casual type of employment and try to encourage those individuals to advance within the corporation as well.

It's difficult for us in the sense of trying to increase the numbers within the corporation, but trying to maintain the local housing authority numbers as well. This is something that we're constantly working towards to try to improve and it's something that we're always striving for. That's the best answer I can give for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the numbers here, the 5 percent is the lowest in the middle management positions. Since it's only 5 percent and it's the lowest figure, it seems like that would be your priority as you move forward. Let me just comment on that.

(interpretation ends) I noted also the total number of department positions it's going down. As a matter fact it says 122 positions in total and for next year, March 31, 2018, it's going to be 116 and that's taking into account four positions in the paraprofessional

category as well as two in the professional category. What positions is the NHC removing from their organizational chart? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, can we ask the member to elaborate further or paraphrase the question and let us know what page he is looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Maybe if you can clarify the page you are referencing, Mr. Joanasie. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm on NHC page 19 appendix two, Inuit Employment Targets. It's a chart that shows the department's target for next year on Inuit employment and that total NHC, they have 122. Actually, I'm going to reference this towards representative public service as of December 31, 2016, so is it the most recent number I have for NHC is 123 positions total, In the business plan for March 31, 2018 under NHC 19, I referenced, it says there's going to be a total of 116 positions. That's six positions that will be taken out from the department and I note that it's under the professional position category and the paraprofessional position category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are construction positions managers.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that we'll be constructing units in the community so we're going to reduce numbers by that much? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll refer this question to the deputy minister.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The six positions in question were recently funded by CMHC and those funds are no longer going to be contributed to the Nunavut Housing Corporation and they happen in the construction division, the design, architectural jobs of that technical nature. The reasoning is that the funding from CMHC has ended for those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have the positions been filled or are they vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): I don't have that information in front of me right now, so I'll have Mr. Audla respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're hoping to renew the positions that are currently filled. It's going to be a matter of how we allocate certain parts of our budget to do that. We are hoping that we can renew them at this point. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are these six positions filled or not filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I would like my deputy minister to continue responding to his question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the six, five are filled and as I stated earlier, we're hoping to renew those positions as well as reprofile the sixth position, being that the sixth position, we had some difficulty to try to fill because of its technical nature. Electrical, I believe, was the position that was in question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As well, I am aware that there are four district offices in Nunavut. I wonder which office positions are vacant in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, if I understood the gist of the member's question, as to which positions will be removed? Is that the question, and if he

asked that...Okay, all of these positions are located all in Iqaluit that we are discussing here. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. Moving to another area, (interpretation ends) I was mentioning about going back to your discussion on rent arrears or collection and it was talked mainly about public housing. How about with staff housing? How is this set up? We know the government has an X amount of staff and an X amount of housing units that you have.

Are all rent that GN staff sit in, is it collected automatically off their pay or is it like GN and you cut a cheque to your employee and then that employee has to pay housing? You used the example of income support recipients. They have to pay a portion of their income to public housing or to their local LHO. How does that work for staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Our staff housing tenants' rents are automatically deducted from their paycheques. The rent is taken off their pay. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. I do comprehend that response. Further, another issue that was referred to earlier, relate to subsidies that the government employees receive for renting government units and I wonder what the amount of this subsidy is for public servants renting government units? Will your department conduct a further review on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. At this time, with respect to the member's question about the amount in this category, we don't have that level of detail, nonetheless, it is one of the areas managed by this (interpretation ends) Blueprint for Action (interpretation) related to government staff housing units rented by our public service, including other matters.

This subsidy is generally administered under that (interpretation ends) Blueprint for Action (interpretation) once the plan is ready for approval at which time we will be able to review it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will look forward to its implementation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, going back to NHC's business plan and going on page 8 and this is in relation to blueprint for action items, the full page has a list of things that NHC will do, but one of them on page NHC-8, the fourth bullet talks about conducting "a jurisdictional scan of various subsidized housing models in other provinces and territories to review best practices." What does NHC plan on? What do you think you will get out of this jurisdictional scan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond as to what we will be doing with the jurisdictional scan, Mr. Chairman, if it's okay with you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of Action 22, analyzing the current staff housing subsidy to determine subsidy levels, as part of that exercise, we hope to look at other jurisdictions that would show to what level they subsidize staff housing, if any. We will look at the NWT system, the system in the Yukon, and any other jurisdiction that offers that as well in other parts of Canada, and to see what best practices are out there and if those best practices can be applied to Nunavut in some way.

Within the context of the overall review of this type of subsidy for staff housing, all we want to do is collect anything within Canada that can assist us in sort of giving us that broader picture of what we can do better. Hopefully it will give us some more comprehensive analysis of what available options there may be to improve that. As part of that, we're looking at it in conjunction with the Department of Finance. We hope to do that within the year through 2017-18. That's something concrete that is well thought out and to do it in such a way that is very reflective of the reality here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. President for his response there. I look forward to more information as it becomes available on that item. Another thing that I noted on the same page NHC-8. A little further down, almost in the middle, it talks about NHC with Community and Government Services will engage with RIAs, regional Inuit associations, on potential public/private partnership opportunities for housing construction, or block land development on municipal Inuit-owned land.

Can the minister clarify when they are planning on doing this in all Nunavut communities, or are there specific communities that they have in mind? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. This was already asked. If the minister wants to respond. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy and I will supplement on lands. Part of his question on Inuit-owned lands, they have Inuit-owned lands in some communities, it's a reason in some communities that no land is available for housing construction. The land owners, for instance, we mentioned the regional Inuit associations, we have been working with them on land that we don't own, or using our own land, that is in the plan.

I will refer part of his question to Mr. Audla, if it's okay with you. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That specific action was brought out through our collaboration in the initial engagement process in developing the Blueprint for Action with the regional Inuit associations where they would happen to own title to lands within a municipality.

We know that not all communities have Inuit-owned lands within municipalities. I can use Pangnirtung as an example, where they have, I believe, four lots of land that Inuit have title to. It's a way of collaborating with them as to whether or not they have plans for those specific lots that they happen to have title to, to see whether or not they'd be interested in developing those plots of land for the purposes of housing, be it for public, and or Inuit-specific housing.

Here in Iqaluit there is one plot in Apex, there is the large plot along the federal road, beachfront property, and there is one close to the Coast Guard complex. Those instances, we'd like to sit down with them and they were agreeable in having that type of discussion, as to how they would want to approach those specific land plots.

As for the other regions, in the Kivalliq, I believe there are not examples of Inuit-owned lands within municipalities. I know there is a handful here in the Baffin, but as it stands the regions have identified that they are willing to sit down with us to have that discussion and it's built into the blueprint for action. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As well, although the question was raised earlier, I appreciate your forbearance in allowing me to ask another question, as I didn't notice that the question has already been asked, furthermore his response was quite clear and I am thankful for that too.

To move to another subject, listed in the annual report that I am turning to, is on page 29 and it has previously been mentioned that (interpretation ends) public housing

(interpretation) is for members of the public, using the NHC units and the operations and maintenance lists that each unit costs approximately \$26,500 in a calendar year.

Further, on the same page, it categorizes the figures properly at least from what I see. As an example (interpretation ends) the average costs per unit and water and sewer is always the highest. It says \$8,400 so almost a third of the \$26,500 goes towards water and sewer, which if we average it out, \$8,400 is about \$700 each month.

But every house needs water, we know that, but what I am trying to get at is: in conjunction with Community and Government Services, have you tried to look at what efficiencies you can try to get in lowering this cost to have water in all our public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This does require brainstorming to lower that, but we aren't the ones responsible for these costs. The Department of Community and Government Services, collaboration with NHC, as well as on the side, working with the Nunavut organizations such as the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Association of Municipalities or NAM (interpretation) and in working with the groups on the construction of the units.

Actually, the expenses related to maintenance as an example of that \$26,500 per unit that was mentioned, and further, water and sewage rates are not set by NHC, as we have to work in conjunction with others, and we can't arbitrarily set it, as the bodies I mentioned earlier are involved in setting the rates as per the members' question. We are continually working with the departments such as CGS, as well as NAM specifically. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Earlier my colleague, Ms. Angnakak, was touching up on staff housing and one of your responses was that it was a staff survey or staff unit. You're encouraging the staff to purchase their own homes. Are you encouraging your staff, if they're living in a public housing unit, to buy that unit or encouraging your staff to buy a government unit that they are living in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. In the Nunavut Housing Corporation, one of our programs can be used for that. Our government staff, if they live in public housing there is a program called Tenant to Own Program, where the tenant can slowly buy the unit. There is a subsidy that goes along with that. That's what we talked about, to not be just a renter anymore, but actually work to buy that unit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Tenant to Own in the smaller communities with the local housing associations, would they allow that to happen, because we don't have much housing in the communities, and they all want it? If the government staff member wants to buy it under Tenant to Own, would that happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the tenant is interested in buying the unit that he is leasing, then we have a program that can help with that. It will be just like normal practice in the communities. For example, in Gjoa Haven, if anybody who works for the government rents from the local housing association, and if that person is interested in purchasing that unit from the housing association, then that staff person should talk with the department to make sure there are no problems to the perspective buyer and problems for the housing association. So they can work on the transition by getting information from the housing association. It's quite open to anybody, no matter where you live. The Tenant to Own Program is active. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I believe he was referring to staff housing. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. Also with staff housing, if staff is living in a staff housing unit, or I believe the government leases apartments, and the staff lives on those apartments; would the staff be able to buy either one of the two units, either leased or government owned staff house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In one way, no, in another way, yes. To explain this properly, I would like the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to explain the proper process that will have to be followed. If it's okay, I would like Mr. Audla to respond to this? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I understand it, there were two parts to the question where those in public housing units, would they have the option to purchase that house they're currently residing in, and the other part; those that are residing in private, or GN owned staff housing, whether they would have that option as well.

The minister did respond that the public housing units, we do offer the Tenant to Ownership Program, which would be decided upon in consultation with NHC district, be

it in Cambridge Bay for the Kitikmeot, Arviat for the Kivalliq, or Cape Dorset for the Baffin, as it relates to public housing. For GN leased units and/or GN owned for the purposes of staff, they are not available in that way.

We do try and encourage private ownership for those that are willing to try out ownership within their community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2017-20 Business Plan indicates that it will "be making specific efforts to reach out to LHOs including in the delivery of new public housing construction."

In the 2017-18 fiscal year what other specific initiatives are planned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We have announced what we are going to be doing in terms of public housing and as to which communities the new construction will go to.

In terms of housing, as the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we work with local housing associations in terms of which lots the housing with built on and those most needy of houses is what we work with to see which communities will get houses this fiscal year.

If I didn't respond to the question properly Mr. Chairman, outside of housing and housing construction, if the question had to do with being outside of housing and housing construction, I can't think of any other thing right now other than granting housing and construction of houses. I don't know what other external factors he is asking about and specific initiatives.

Maybe if my colleague can better explain his question I can respond to it better. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak, can you specify which document or what specific initiative you are referring to. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just leave that for the sitting of the House. I'll go on to something else.

In your *Blueprint for Action on Housing* summary, action 41 on page 38, "Strategic Challenge: the High Cost of Housing" the first paragraph reads "The cost of housing construction in Nunavut is very high. On average, construction costs in Nunavut are nearly three times higher than in southern Ontario. Furthermore, the operation and maintenance costs for social housing are significant and increasing year over year."

Reading that, in “Goal 3: Reduce the Cost of Housing. Reducing the cost of housing in Nunavut as a whole can be achieved through more efficient utility use and cost reduction and efficiency initiatives, construction techniques...” We all know everything that comes up north, and especially anything that goes to the Kitikmeot, is very expensive by the time it gets to the communities, as mentioned by the minister before you, even the fuel is the highest cost in Nunavut.

Can you explain to me how you’re going to reduce the cost of housing when you’re referring to construction techniques? How are you going to reduce the cost? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This specific question raised can mean many things. As an example, when a unit is roughed-in and enclosed, the costs don’t just include the construction costs.

We can itemize various expenses after the unit has been constructed, such as the operation costs, the fuel expenses as well as which direction the unit is facing are some of the issues we have taken into consideration.

Perhaps to look at the definition, if it had a different definition it would have been much easier to comprehend. Currently, the definition applies to energy efficient lighting such as LED lights and more energy-efficient lighting, if each unit was modernized then it would result in savings across the board related to energy costs as well as which direction the unit is facing.

If for example, the lot where the unit is, including the general direction of the unit such as the southerly direction where the sun could shine in, if we increased those windows and have more facing the sun, it would possibly alleviate the energy costs due to more light from the sun where they don’t need artificial lighting.

So these types of different issues we are discussing here related to energy-efficiency and how we can meet that goal, as well the electrical wattage so we can purchase less energy draining lights to lower our costs. So these are the main issues, to summarize are included in the (interpretation ends) blueprint for action on housing (interpretation) as most of the energy saving initiatives are written in that report. Members should review this document so that they are aware of the different savings initiatives that the member is asking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you explain to me what multi-family needs-based housing is? Is that an overcrowded unit? Is “multi-family” three families living in one house? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's what it means. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you. I think I just have one more question. I have a question on the rental payments. NHC is finalizing a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Family Services to allow income assistance clients' rent payments to be paid directly to LHOs. Saying that, how much of that now is going directly to LHOs? You don't have to give me an exact amount; just a percentage. How much of that did go to LHOs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Usually when there's a cheque cut from social services, (interpretation ends) 100 percent of that amount is issued and made payable to the local association. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) That's up to you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: It might be on a different page a little bit, but I think right now the clients are getting a cheque that they want to pay to LHOs, but it is under their names, it's not under the LHO, I believe, if you can correct me on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, that is a public housing unit, (interpretation ends) so it is repayable to the LHOs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one more question. Why would the rental arrears be so high then, if that is the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We talked about this a little bit earlier on about some of the factors that account for the large amount of rent receivables. As we indicated earlier, the social service recipients have to give the housing rent money to the local housing organization. There are quite a lot of factors that a person might not pay for their rent. Usually, an individual might keep that rent money instead of

giving it to the local housing organization. Those are some of the reasons, and there are other reasons that account for those.

The president responded to this same question earlier on. If it's okay with the Chairman, I would to refer this again back to the president. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently in discussions with Family Services as to why that would be the case. There is like anecdotal information where the income support client is actually is given the cheque in the name of the local housing authority, but for whatever reason have not been able to transfer it over, physically, to the LHO. So we're currently trying to understand the reasons why behind that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I asked the same question that was asked earlier on, please stop me. In the Nunavut Housing Corporation for 2017-2020 business plan it indicates that Nunavut Tunngavik and the regional Inuit associations will work together when they're putting the housing strategy. Could you elaborate further if the Nunavut Tunngavik and the regional Inuit associations working together? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. This was asked earlier on, but you want more information. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank him for that question. What it means when we were developing the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*, we participated with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit associations, for example, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association or the Kivalliq Inuit Association and Nunavut Tunngavik. We also had the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami who participated in the development of that action plan.

We are going to keep working with them and we also took action items as to who would be responsible for those. Very briefly, that was our working together with the Inuit associations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you. I will make a brief comment and it is a part of the question that I asked. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is engaging with NTI and the RIAs to inform the development of the federal government's National Housing Strategy. What specific resources is NTI contributing with respected to housing-related issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't respond as to whether or not NTI is going to be making a contribution but it falls to our department to look for additional funds from the federal government or from other sources. I can't respond for NTI because it is outside of our responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just reading the Inuktitut and I think it's wrong once again. Very briefly, in regard to the huge deficit, we get a cheque and then we're required to pay for our rent by giving that cheque the housing association.

If I was employed and I worked for municipal services, are you going to start deducting their payroll so that they can pay off their debts to the housing association? Are you planning on making payroll deductions as a payment plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question.

If an individual works for municipal services or the hamlet or wherever they may be employed, if they're renting a unit, the rent would be deducted from their payroll and applied to their rent. That would be for an individual who is employed. It would be a payroll deduction do that the individual can pay for back rent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure some of them were asked already by my colleagues, I want to ask another question especially regarding the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*.

I have questions on item 22 that is to do a review and there's only a year left of the review. We put that \$400 figure maybe 10-20 years ago, at that time the price of gas, operations and maintenance of a house have gone up drastically, when are you going to complete this plan because we have to provide more support to homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at completing it in two years time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed but it doesn't state here, its been quite a long while that we've been seeing that we should be increasing the number of homeowners and it would be of great benefit if more people moved into their own homes and that would free up the rental units.

I know that you're going to say they tried that before, there are even smaller communities that are working, if they have their own home it would help them. I would like to see another review because Inuit are very capable and can build their own homes I'm talking about the sweat equity and the HAP program type of programs where it would increase the number of homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question.

In regard to the question in providing homeownership programs, on the reviewing plan that we're also reviewing the homeownership program too how we can encourage the public to move into a home briefly my response will be the HAP program will also look into reviewing that HAP program in the action plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very nice to hear that it'll be reviewed, but it seems like we're reviewing everything continually. When are we going to start seeing concrete plans? I don't want to just plan. I want to help all the residents of Nunavut who want to own their own homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I responded earlier to the member that they will be reviewing this in the plans, so I cannot tell you at this point. I agree with the member that we don't need to be in a constant state of planning, but Mr. Chairman, I will have my deputy minister supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member for his question. (interpretation ends) When we're looking at the key issue of meeting the housing needs of GN employees, as well as what was identified in the *Blueprint for Action*, as a part of the main context within the *Blueprint for Action* on trying to fill the gaps within the housing continuum, primarily which is the lack of

homeownership within Nunavut, we would like to increase that availability of being able to contribute to Nunavut residents if they wish to become homeowners. We would like to be able to be the government agency to be able to assist in that way.

The action plans that are set out, we don't necessarily call them strategic plans or overall reviews. We're actually calling them "action plans or concrete action" where we actually give them a time limited timeframe as to how we're going to work towards addressing that.

When you look at the specific actions that are identified, all 60 of which work towards closing those gaps within the housing continuum, we have identified specific actions that have the short-term, which is 1 to 3 years; the mid-term, which is 3-5 years; and the long-term, which is 5-10 years.

When you go through each of these actions and when you look at what we're going to actually do within that short term period of 1 to 3 years, we have identified actual steps and who is responsible with respect to which department is going to be the lead, which department is going to be collaborated with and supported, and what the planned activities are with respect to each year; so year 1, year 2, year 3.

The one thing that we want to do is somehow address, within that housing continuum, not only the staff housing for GN employees but Nunavut residents homeownership aspect and those that need care, elders facilities, mobility issues, mental health facilities, what have you, and we're hoping that within the action plan, that we actually identify specifically with respect to homeownership, how we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): I apologize Mr. Chairman, I believe they forgot my question.

When are we going to roll out a plan for a homeownership program? On page 16 it says that you're going to review the homeownership program and the review will be complete next year. When is the Nunavut Housing Corporation going to respond to those people who are interested in purchasing homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As I responded earlier on, we expect that within two years. It wouldn't go beyond three years. Sometimes it can occur from one to three years with respect to his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They will be reviewing the staff housing program. I would like to ask how many of the senior level staff have been provided with staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We will have to consult with the Department of Finance to get that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): I will want to receive that information after your research on the matter. Perhaps your administrators should be getting more assistance in this regard, as the revenues are not acceptable, and it would provide more effectiveness, if assistance was provided to staff who rent staff housing. This is in light of the proposed review, so I will want to get more information after the completion of the review. This is just a comment, and I am finished for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That was just a comment. Following my list of names, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly I have never owned a private home, and I have no idea what types of programs and services are provided to homeowners.

This item within your business plan states that funding can be applied for with an upper limit of \$60,000. Is this fund for all of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's for the entire territory of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another figure in this page includes a reference for additional funding limit of \$15,000. Is this fund specifically for installing energy efficient equipment? I wonder if this is on top of this \$15,000 or is it offered through a different program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the additional \$15,000 can be used for (interpretation ends) energy efficiency related items. (Interpretation) This is what is listed, primarily fuel efficiency or energy efficiency

programs, and this \$15,000 can be used in addition for this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another item, towards the bottom of the page references elders or Senior Citizens Home Repair Program. Is this specific to renovations for seniors' home which would be \$15,000 or is this separate program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For this program called the Senior Citizens Home Repair Program is for repairs to their private homes, and the \$15,000 would be specific towards that. In addition to these funds, freight costs also is another line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also at the bottom the Emergency Repair Program, which \$15,000 is also available for a maximum contribution, so this is also another separate line item than the ones that we just spoke about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is for the Emergency Repair Program for the homeowners. This funding can be utilized for the Emergency Repair Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way I understand it that this \$15,000 maximum contribution available is for one unit? Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Yes. I understand it correctly that it would be for one house. It would be for one house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some homeowners don't seem to understand the programs that are made available to them. Sometimes Inuktitut unilingual speaking people own their own homes. Can you elaborate what kinds of

programs and services that are available to the unilingual speaking homeowners? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the homeowners, if there was a question from either one of the communities in Nunavut, the headquarters is in Arviat and the staff are all Inuit in that office. They can speak Inuktitut, but the office is in Arviat. They're all Inuit beneficiaries and they take care of the Homeownership Program in that office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of them don't seem to be quite aware of these programs and you feel for them. Are they kept informed on where they can apply for assistance in case they need it? Are they kept informed in where they can apply this assistance? Thank you.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the district offices in the Baffin, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot, or the local housing organizations, if the homeowner does not know where to get the information. They can go through the district offices, even the local housing organization can provide assistance if they are asked on where they should call, or they should go, they can be provided that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for that information. Moving onto another area, Mr. Chairman, the *Nunavut Housing Corporation 2014-15 Annual Report*, concerning procurement contracts, communications, this was tabled on March 16, 2016.

The 2015-16 annual report has not been tabled yet in the Assembly, so when will it be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the member for the question.

We are presently preparing the report and it will be tabled during this winter session. That is our plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Next on my list of names is Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for giving me another opportunity.

I would like to go back the rental arrears on the houses we rent. It is really bad to hear that there is an excess of \$27 million in arrears to the housing corporation. If that were to be paid off you could construct 60 units. I would like to discuss with you what my options are to work on it, Mr. Kuksuk.

In the document it says that one unit costs \$26,000 annually to maintain. As tenants we don't seem to think this is important and I don't think we appreciate the fact that we are provided homes, perhaps because we are unaware of the costs. There are many tenants out there who are being provided with low cost housing and a lot of tenants don't take care of their units. How do you keep your tenants informed of these things including the need to take proper care of their homes, that if their paid up their rental arrears we would have more money to build houses? Who is responsible for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. This was already mentioned. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing organizations have tenant relations officers who are responsible for collecting rental arrears in the communities. I agree with you. This is an ongoing discussion of how many rental units could be built from rental arrears when it's in the millions of dollars.

We always try to put it under consideration and we should be restarting people who are responsible for communications on our rental arrears between the local housing organizations and the tenant we want to create a position that we deal strictly with that issue, hopefully this will alleviate the communications between the tenant and the local organization.

If we work together that way then we can eat away at the rental arrears and we expect that to happen in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. You probably thought of this, some of us don't know how to manage money and some people even though they get into debt they don't bother with paying them, and then they start worrying about them. I've heard of instances where some people have extremely large amounts of rental arrears, why is that?

It's obvious that this has never been worked on, this is something to consider. Have you ever thought of like for instance for the tenants who reside in housing association units if all the arrears reach \$1,000, \$2,000, \$3,000 once you reach that level then the housing organization would have to talk to us, has that ever been considered.

The reason for my thinking is that if you had talked to me about my arrears when they were at that level, has that ever been considered or is that the case already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This is an important issue when there are large amounts of arrears for that reason we have put in our plans as a department we work with other departments in the Government of Nunavut on managing money properly, maybe because they're in debt and what can you do to stop your debt from increasing or decreasing your debt.

For those reasons we are starting to plan on counselling a tenant who has arrears, we're looking at ways on how we can help the tenants on money management. We're starting to plan for that on rental arrears on how we can work closely with a tenant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, I concur completely with the minister. Nonetheless, if I can urge the government, I would specifically urge you to fast-track this plan on rental arrears. I am of the mind that while you are focusing on this rental arrear collection plan, and most of us are aware that once any government department undertakes a planning process, it can become an unending process for many years, sometimes at least.

I would encourage you to speed up the planning process, and while you are developing this plan, the rental arrears standing at \$27 million is increasing as we speak. It is something we have to put a stop to. If the tenants were proactively sought out to lay out a repayment plan by being informed of their arrears, then there would be suggestions on ways to lower their arrears. Some tenants are encumbered with extremely high arrears, but it seems they are not even worried about them.

That is mainly a comment, as I fully support your work. I am done on this subject. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. He said that's just a comment. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$199,843,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kuksuk, closing comments. Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also wish to first of all thank the interpreters behind the glass booths behind us, as I always thank them, and we are very grateful to them for their services.

Further, to my officials and the resource people who provided support were patient in waiting for their turn.

I appreciate members who provided questions to us and I look forward to working with all of you to resolve the NHC challenges of housing here in Nunavut. This includes any suggestions meant to improve our efforts as well as the plans we have identified as requiring work. We want them to succeed and the only way forward is to work in partnership with one another.

I am just expressing my gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, along with my colleagues for being able to review our work here today. I believe that is all. Thank you very much.

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

Members, do you agree that we can proceed with the Department of Family Services?
Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think we did a lot of work today and we're more caught up in our work. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 34 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Keyootak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. (interpretation) *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 Management and Services Board will meet this afternoon at 3:45 in the Tuktu Boardroom, and that the Standing Committee on Legislation will meet tomorrow at 1:30 in the Nanuq Room.

Orders of the Day for March 6:

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 32
 - Bill 33
 - Bill 34
 - Bill 35
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 6, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:33*

