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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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(Hudson Bay)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 7, 2016

Members Present:

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

>>House commenced at 13:29

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut, members, ministers, (interpretation ends) Premier, (interpretation) as well as our pages and visitors. Welcome to the House.

Going to the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Government House Leader, Mr. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 079 – 4(3):
Minister Absent from the House**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the (interpretation

ends) Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation) will be absent from the House today. Minister Savikataaq is attending the Arctic Winter Games Political Leaders' Meeting today in Nuuk, Greenland. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 080 – 4(3):
Construction of a New Wildlife
Office in Pangnirtung**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I am always pleased to make announcements about offices. The construction of a new wildlife office in Pangnirtung has been completed.

This new office replaces the previous wildlife office in Pangnirtung, which had reached the end of its 25-year lifecycle. Planning for the new building began in 2014 and we hope to have the new office fully operational by the end of March this year.

Mr. Speaker, this new office will help the Department of Environment conservation officer in Pangnirtung to continue providing a high-quality, professional service to the people of that community, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in its design and construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation

ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 081 – 4(3):
Pathway for Adult Secondary
School Graduation Expansion**

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to update my fellow members on the continued expansion of the PASS program: Pathway to Adult Secondary School graduation.

The Department of Education continues to work closely with Nunavut Arctic College to ensure excellence in development and delivery of this program. Courses use curriculum content from the Alberta Distance Learning Centre, recognized by the governments of Nunavut and Alberta.

PASS helps Nunavut adults over 19 to obtain the last few high school courses they need to earn their High School Diploma in their own communities, on their own time, and outside of the high school environment.

Mr. Speaker, PASS links learners with other students, teachers, and content online through computers and Internet connectivity designed to work in Nunavut. Students can continue their studies in this program in any Nunavut community, even if they change communities during their studies.

As of the fall 2015 semester, students are now able to take advantage of a new option to complete their courses over two semesters.

Mr. Speaker, the winter 2016 semester for PASS began on January 25 with 93

students enrolled in 14 communities: Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Resolute Bay, Arviat, Baker Lake, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Hall Beach, Igloolik, and Sanikiluaq. Of this group, 21 are new students starting PASS courses this winter.

PASS allows Nunavut adults to take the preparation courses they need to succeed in this unique learning program and get the credits they need to graduate so they can achieve their career and employment goals. This program represents one of our government's investments in education for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

**Minister's Statement 082 – 4(3):
Income Support Delivery System**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department is proud to be well underway in the implementation of an electronic case management system for income assistance. The Income Support Delivery System is now operational in 11 communities, with installations scheduled in seven more communities by April 2017. The system is a top priority for my department in order to ensure consistency, quality, and accountability in the delivery of our Income Assistance Program.

Implementation of the Income Support Delivery System is a multiyear project to modernize the administration of income

assistance in Nunavut. Prior to this, income assistance was administered manually across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, this new system brings many benefits, including more efficient and secure storage and sharing of client information; standardized, consistent service delivery across Nunavut; increased program compliance and reduced risk of fraud; improved client service planning and coordination; and reduced administrative burden on frontline staff.

Mr. Speaker, the Income Support Delivery System is an exciting step for my department. I look forward to its implementation in all Nunavut communities and I will continue to update the House on our progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 172 – 4(3): Constituents participating at the Arctic Winter Games

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I am slightly behind in this recognizance, I rise today to acknowledge athletes who are going to Greenland for the Arctic Winter Games.

I was not expecting to see so many athletes from our community, but I wish

to express my pride in our representatives from our community. The team consists of six female athletes and eight male athletes. The reason why I take pride in these athletes from our community is that it is rare for a small community to send a large contingent, which is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, although this by itself is praiseworthy, I take further pride because one of the athletes named after my in-law has participated in several Arctic Winter Games and that person so named, I cannot speak it due to our cultural sensitivities and kinship rules.

This person is someone I take pride in, as he was also at the Yellowknife games in the past, participating in the Dene snake game, where they throw a stick on the snow and they try to make it go farthest. He is able to send it quite far and has won this game in the past. He is a good role model and quite a capable person. Further, he can shoot a narwhal in the head from any angle, as he is a good hunter as well as a competitor in games. I am proud of my in-law's namesake.

I would like my colleagues to join me in extending our pride in our community athletes as well as my in-law. Further, one of my great-grandchildren is also attending, so let us show our appreciation to our athletes going to the Arctic Winter Games in Greenland. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 173 – 4(3):
Kinngait Recreation Coordinators**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish everyone a good day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to the Cape Dorset recreation department for keeping our residents and in particular, our younger residents busy with various activities through the weeks and months of a calendar year.

Mr. Speaker, the recreation department currently has five programs running based out of the community centre, including other specific programs offered at the sewing centre, as well as the Qavavau Aningmiuq Youth Centre and the hockey arena.

Mr. Speaker, the five programs offered at the community centre revolve around these activities: children's cooking classes for both boys and girls, introduction to soapstone carving, elders' lore and storytelling, booklet making such as photo collages, and interactive activities for parents and children.

Mr. Speaker, the sewing centre is constantly in use, with various, significant programs offered from that facility. Within a week, you can see many people attending the sewing classes.

They also offer prenatal and postnatal classes from Health Canada, including nutritious foods and cooking classes. Local health representatives offer this course twice a week.

Mr. Speaker, these recreational programs are not simply for play since these programs are specific to Inuit culture, language, and teach traditional Inuit core values revolving around life as well as to ensure there is a safe place for children to socialize.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? (interpretation) I don't hear any nays. Mr. Joanasie, please proceed.

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

As I was saying, the younger children and youth in particular are the target for these programs, which is also consistent with the current school calendar, taking into account the two streams.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my thanks to everyone who participates in these programs, along with the coordinators, especially since recreation is very important. I also want to thank the departments of Culture and Heritage and Health and our local recreation department in Cape Dorset for their unending work to date.

I also expect to see more examples of relevant programming that offer encouragement, skills development, and healthy life choices in our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

**Member's Statement 174 – 4(3):
Snowy Owls Win 2016 Kitikmeot
Cup**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people in the community of Gjoa Haven, Nunavummiut, and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our hockey team that went over to Kugluktuk over the weekend for the Kitikmeot Cup. They got the gold. I'm proud to say that.

As you know, hockey is a very important game made in Canada and is a valuable life skills program.

I just want to mention the names of the hockey players. Their team is called Snowy Owls and their names are: Stanley Porter, Scott Porter, Craig Aglukkaq, Cory Aglukkaq, Michael Porter, Oliver Porter, Levi Otokiak, Joseph Okpkapok, Halluq Porter, and Quinten Takkiruq, and the goalies are Paul Karoo and Kyle Aglukkaq.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say "thank you" to the community of Kugluktuk for looking after the team, feeding them, and housing them.

I would like to say again "congratulations" to the Snowy Owls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 175 – 4(3):
Sanikiluaq's Badminton Success**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as you may recall, I have risen a number of times in this House to recognize the ongoing success of Sanikiluaq's badminton players and their coach Stephen Keoughan.

Mr. Speaker, as the head coach, Stephen has been working hard to prepare Team Nunavut's badminton players for the Arctic Winter Games.

I am very pleased to note that four of the six badminton players selected to be on Team Nunavut are from Sanikiluaq. I wish the best of luck to:

Sappa Johnny Cookie;
Mike Kavik;
Mina Mannuk; and
Janie Audla.

Mr. Speaker, participating in the Arctic Winter Games is a wonderful opportunity for all of our athletes. I encourage everyone involved to enjoy the spirit of the games, to play hard and have fun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 176 – 4(3):
Constituents participating at the
Arctic Winter Games**

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise today to talk about Arctic Winter Games participants.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that there are three individuals from Coral Harbour who are taking part in the Arctic Winter Games. The first athlete from Coral Harbour is Chantelle Emiktowt, who is there for basketball, Christa Emiktowt, who is there for soccer, as well as Lonnie Kolit-Carter, who is there for hockey. These athletes are from Coral Harbour.

Further, athletes from Naujaat also there for the hockey team are Donovan Kupak and Christopher Qingayak Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to congratulate these Arctic Winter Games participants and I hope they enjoy the Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 177 – 4(3):
Ensuring Adequate Services at
Community Health Centres**

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue of concern with respect to the adequacy of services provided at our community health centres.

Mr. Speaker, it is always distressing when we have concerns about the health of our family members. This is especially true when it comes to infants and the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, a recent incident in my constituency has raised the very sensitive issue of access to health services in a timely manner. While I appreciate that our community health staff work long, hard hours, especially when they are short-staffed, we must also recognize that for family members who are concerned over the welfare of their loved ones, being told to wait can be very distressing.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I was pleased to join my fellow MLAs in this House in approving the proposed budget for the Department of Health, which will see several new health positions for the community of Baker Lake in 2016-17.

It is my sincere hope that with the addition of new staff positions at the Baker Lake Health Centre, there will no longer be situations where an individual needing health care will be told to wait. I am taking this opportunity to advise the government that I will be monitoring this situation very closely. I look forward to welcoming the new nursing staff to Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Member's Statement 178 – 4(3):
Pangnirtung Participants at the
Arctic Winter Games**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good

afternoon to the people of Pangnirtung and Nunavut.

I, too, would like to congratulate athletes on behalf of Pangnirtung. There are three athletes from Pangnirtung and their names are: Gregory Ataguyuk for hockey, Mason Angnakak for volleyball, and Mike Nakashuk for badminton. I am very proud for these athletes, especially the parents and coaches.

The recreation committee in Pangnirtung has tried to provide any form of assistance to make sure that these things go ahead, especially that athletes go to the Arctic Winter Games.

To the Arctic Winter Games athletes and coaches, I congratulate you all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Mr. Paul Quassa.

**Member's Statement 179 – 4(3):
Successful Search and Rescue in
Igloolik**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of my community and Nunavummiut.

I would like to talk about *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* because it is very important, including today's knowledge of Inuit.

In my community of Igloolik, there was a search and rescue since Tuesday. By Sunday, they found the hunter and they had been looking for him for six days.

Aapak Taqauq is his name and I am very proud of the fact that he used traditional knowledge and survived. That's why we have been taught Inuit traditional knowledge and survival skills. We have been advised about Inuit traditional ways and survival skills. When this individual followed the advice, he survived.

On behalf of my community, I would like to congratulate Aapak Taqauq for coming home safely on Sunday. We're very proud of him and the fact that he used traditional knowledge to survive. When we use Inuit traditional knowledge, it really helps us in life. To his family members and to the community of Igloolik, I would like to state this very good news and I am very proud to say that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

**Member's Statement 180 – 4(3): Role
as a Member of the Legislative
Assembly of Nunavut**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the events that transpired, I just wish to announce that I will be available to provide support through any means possible and to try to uphold any of the initiatives that we are pushing for.

Furthermore, I don't begrudge anyone in any way possible, as I will use my mandate to try to assist initiatives I support, as well as to follow my personal beliefs. In sticking to my principles,

sometimes it displeases others. Nonetheless, it keeps me on my feet and they are the foundation of my strength and that will not stop.

I also want to thank the new Minister for Health and Suicide Prevention, as that is dear to my heart. I will support Minister Ell in her initiatives to implement these items and I wanted to inform her about that. Her duties are numerous. Further, I was very grateful for her preparations prior to my being assigned that portfolio as everything was ready for me. It is obvious to me that she will be dedicated in performing her new duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 227 – 4(3): Protection Measures for Caribou Herds and Habitat

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

On February 5, 2016, the Nunavut Planning Commission publicly announced that it will be holding technical meetings from March 7 to 10, 2016 concerning “The identification of various types of caribou habitat, and a

discussion of the most effective methods to manage land use in these areas.”

Just last week, I tabled a letter from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization, which was addressed to the Minister on March 2, 2016. In its letter, the Baker Lake HTO raises concerns regarding the current protection measures that are in place to protect caribou herds and habitats.

Can the minister describe the current measures that are in place to protect the caribou herds and habitats from mining-related exploration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, the Nunavut Planning Commission is dealing with the question of land use planning through that process. Furthermore, this government is a partner in this process in determining the land use plan, particularly the Department of Environment, as it pertains to Nunavut lands and wildlife. This process is one where our government is party to the process.

Currently, we are trying to put the best systemic practices and most effective means of assisting residents and the territory of Nunavut. The government has put forward their position to set aside protected areas and wildlife areas as required and how best to handle development by interested parties and how best to manage these land use activities. That is the position of this

government at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Baker Lake HTO indicates in its letter, “Although exploration companies are given guidelines and conditions which to abide by during their project operations, the protection measures do not guarantee long-term protection of the environment.”

Can the minister indicate if the government supports the implementation of further protection measures for caribou populations in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, wildlife will require protective measures wherever development occurs and examples abound today, even around Baker Lake.

To use an example, caribou management issues in particular are the focus, even though the process to conduct that planning is under the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Planning Commission (interpretation) mandate, as they prepare land use plans. We can see the completed land use plans for regions. They have been supported in the past, particularly adjacent to the communities that are required for non-renewable resources such as mining. Near Baker

Lake, that development has been governed by existing agreements.

Yes, I have faith in the government handling of (interpretation ends) responsible development, (interpretation) as we have supported development near caribou habitat or caribou calving grounds. If any development occurred near these areas, these are the types of issues that this government would review, particularly in light of the impacts of the development on wildlife. It is very clear that protection measures will be recommended by various organizations and representative bodies. That is our position as a government at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, in its letter, the HTO also raises concerns that the protection measures that are currently in place do not take into account the broad range of sources of disturbance, such as noise, that may accompany mining-related exploration activities and can affect wildlife in the area.

Can the minister indicate if the government supports implementing further restrictions on permissible exploration activities in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to state again that the government supports responsible

development within calving grounds and key access corridors. (interpretation) Therefore, in line with the position I advocated, these are the areas that will be reviewed with that reasoning.

As per my earlier remark, since we have seasonal changes, we would look at (interpretation ends) seasonal restrictions (interpretation) as they too are voiced as concerns. This will be something that we will be concerned with.

If there were to be hearings through the Nunavut Impact Review Board or other organizations, then they can rely on their decisions and there will be consideration in providing support to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Question 228 – 4(3): Technical Meetings on Caribou and the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also for the Minister of Environment. It follows along with questions by my colleague.

(interpretation ends) As my colleague, the Member for Baker Lake noted earlier, the Nunavut Planning Commission is holding technical meetings this week concerning “The identification of various types of caribou habitat, and a discussion of the most effective methods to manage land use in these areas.”

According to the agenda that the Nunavut Planning Commission provides on its public website, the Department of Environment is scheduled to deliver a presentation at these technical meetings today.

Can the minister explain what is included in his department’s presentation at today’s technical meetings on the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my colleague for that question. Yes, indeed, that is the process we are undertaking to discuss these issues at that meeting. The issue I referred to earlier is related to the government position and this will comprise the process we are following as to how to plan the land usage through NPC.

The Nunavut government is also forwarding its position on this issue and it seems obvious that the government will use this process to work with the bodies responsible for land use planning. This is the position as advocated by the government, which I referred to supporting the process to ensure that land use is properly planned for (interpretation ends) responsible development (interpretation) and I have no doubt this will be one of the discussion items at that meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Last week, I tabled a letter from the Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization. In its letter, the Aqigiq HTO emphasised the importance of protecting caribou post-calving grounds from mining-related exploration activities.

Can the minister indicate what the government's position is concerning the issue of identifying caribou post-calving grounds as protected areas under the Nunavut Land Use Plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say again that the Government of Nunavut supports responsible development within calving grounds and key access corridors, and these will be on a case-by-case basis. Also, I just want to again say that responsible development, which the government supports, within caribou habitat must be done under strict measures to minimize impacts to wildlife. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In its letter, the Aqigiq HTO also identified the importance of protecting migration routes of caribou populations in the Kivalliq region from mining-related exploration activities, including

areas that have been identified to be caribou water crossings.

Can the minister indicate what the government's position is concerning the issue of identifying caribou water crossings as protected areas under the Nunavut Land Use Plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I referred to that earlier when a question was raised, as caribou habitat, migration routes, and their end destination are all important. By using these issues, to use this example, in the springtime when caribou are starting to calve, protection measures would be enacted to try to protect the animals' calving areas as well as the caribou themselves.

To use this example, in the Kivalliq region, there are several mines already operating, and to use concrete examples, we have already seen how protection measures are placed around caribou migration routes and their destination. Through this process as well, as I stated earlier, the migration routes would be carefully reviewed by the government. To use that reason, as the lands in Nunavut are being planned out for the access corridors, this is another avenue for the Nunavut government to enact further protection measures. This is to ensure that the land use plans within Nunavut include wildlife protection measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Question 229 – 4(3): Outcome of First Ministers' Meeting

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everyone.

My questions are for the Premier. I would like to welcome him back and I'll give him the first question of the day.

Last week, the Premier informed the House that he and the other territorial premiers would be opposing any plans to impose what he referred to as an "inflexible pan-Canadian price on carbon" at the recent First Ministers' Meeting that was held in Vancouver. Can the Premier update the House today on the outcome of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased that I could participate in the meetings with the first ministers, including the Prime Minister, on priorities that Canada had set at COP21 last December in Paris.

Mr. Speaker, the outcomes of the meetings vary. There are a number of things that we put forth. At the pan-territorial, we put our argument forth that we have a very delicate economy and we have limited capacity. Mr. Speaker, our greenhouse gas emissions are 0.1, which is very small compared to other jurisdictions, especially other countries around the world.

One of the things that I wanted to make clear to our premiers and the Prime

Minister is our very limited capacity, delicate economy, and the high cost of living in the Arctic. As members are all well aware, we have the highest costs in Canada, if not the world, when it comes to sustainable living up in the north. Of course, Nunavut is no exception when it comes to the high price of living.

Mr. Speaker, I was quite pleased that the outcome of this meeting was to set up four working groups that will determine carbon pricing. It's quite clear that we made our best efforts between the three territories. It was quite clear that we made the impact and impression that the north, especially Nunavut, will have to be considered through this working group to have a flexible means of dealing with carbon pricing. Again, we are all well aware and all premiers, including the Prime Minister, are well aware of the delicate situation we face up here.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, although we contribute very small amounts of greenhouse gas emissions, we're the most impacted in the world, and I wanted to get that message out to our colleagues and the Prime Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his detailed response. One of the issues that I raised with the Premier before his departure for Vancouver was the appointment of a new federal devolution negotiator. Did the Premier have the opportunity to raise this with the Prime Minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I did not directly raise that with the Prime Minister, but during my preamble and our discussions, I did bring that up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another one of the issues that we have discussed in detail in the House is the need for the federal government to do more to support accessibility and affordability of air travel for Nunavummiut, especially in our most remote communities. As has been pointed out on many occasions, this support would help to assert Canadian sovereignty. Did the Premier have the opportunity to raise this with the Prime Minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, indirectly, as these meetings are scheduled according to the Prime Minister's scheduling, it's very difficult to get direct discussions happening one on one. I did again mention, through our discussions at the table to mention these things that the member has raised, the high cost of living up north, the cost of transportation, and the high cost of a regular food basket that other

jurisdictions in Canada take for granted. We have the highest in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we have statistics there for a food basket. The Kitikmeot has the highest average with five communities. That is one of the things that I talk about during our discussions, not just with the Prime Minister but all my colleagues throughout Canada's jurisdictions. They fully understand that the high cost of air transportation is one of the things that impede development. It impedes better quality of life for northerners. Again, that's one of the things that we continually mention and bring to the table during our discussions with the Prime Minister and all our southern colleagues down south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 230 – 4(3): Amending Eligibility Criteria for Senior Fuel Subsidy

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Acting Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, the government recently announced an increase in the senior fuel subsidy. This is a very good thing as we all know that the cost of fuel as well as other household costs are very high in Nunavut. However, under the current eligibility criteria, many seniors do not qualify for the full subsidy.

Can the minister provide an update on what consideration has been given to amending the eligibility criteria to

permit more seniors to take advantage of this important benefit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As to which particular issue you are asking about, if you are referring to fuel or whatnot, I didn't quite hear the question. Perhaps it was related to the senior fuel subsidy. Which one are you referring to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Joanasié, please clarify your question.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm referring to the senior fuel subsidy. There's a senior fuel subsidy through the Department of Family Services. My question is with regard to the current eligibility criteria or amending it to permit more seniors to take advantage of this subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Acting Minister for Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize for not understanding clearly.

Since this is a very important subsidy provided to the elders, we have made amendments so that we can provide fuel subsidies to the seniors. There would be an income ceiling of \$75,000. This would give them a full subsidy on 3,500 litres. For income above \$75,000 to \$100,000,

the senior would receive half the fuel subsidy. If the senior makes over \$100,000, they would not be eligible under the eligibility criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year, a specific budget is allocated for the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program. I would like to ask the minister: can he confirm whether or not the full budget is expended every year and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to make a supplement to the first question regarding the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program. We are currently reviewing the benefits, including the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program. We are looking at the needs of Nunavummiut and that's one of the reasons why we are doing a review.

With regard to the other question, I cannot tell you at this time if the full budget is expended every year or not. Once I get the information, I will make sure to respond to your question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has come to my attention that a number of seniors do not qualify for the senior fuel subsidy

because their income is just a little bit over the threshold. As he stated, it's set at \$75,000. I would like to ask the minister if he will commit to reviewing the eligibility criteria for the senior fuel subsidy and amending it to allow more seniors to receive this important benefit and make their lives more comfortable. It is very important that we provide such benefits to our seniors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize that there are some seniors missing out, but I will make sure that we review this further. On December 31, 2015, 108 seniors were provided the senior fuel subsidy. That's up to December 31, 2015. As I indicated earlier, this program is under the Department of Family Services. Since we're doing a review of our programs, we are including this program as part of the review. We have factored in all the issues that my colleague has brought up and I'm sure that there will be an amendment to the eligibility criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 231 – 4(3): Infrastructure Funding Announcement

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Education.

The infrastructure funding announcement that the Minister of Community and Government Services recently made indicated that new funding for the replacement of playgrounds is being provided to the Department of Education.

Can the Minister of Education clarify if both district education authorities and municipal councils are eligible to submit applications for funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question on that matter. Indeed, playgrounds are a critical component of our schools, and I can state unequivocally that the majority of the playground equipment is quite antiquated now.

I can also state that to date, we have received 11 requests from local DEAs for funding. Furthermore, this summer, actually within this fiscal year, we plan to refurbish two playgrounds and new equipment installed therein. However, we have to be aware that there are many standards applicable to playgrounds and we can only install equipment to code, which includes qualified personnel overseeing the work. We work with CG&S to enforce safety codes and various criteria.

With respect to local playgrounds, the DEAs are the only ones that can submit requests for this work primarily due to the safety codes we have to follow. In addition, this includes the layout as it has to be a safe environment and due to

these stringent rules, we have to ensure that they meet all codes within the context of school playgrounds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's announcement indicated that a total of \$1.7 million has been allocated for the replacement of playgrounds. Can the minister clarify what the maximum funding amount will be for each individual project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that most of the playgrounds that we put up in our schools are usually over \$100,000 to install or to put in place for our schools across Nunavut. That is an average price of putting up playgrounds in all our schools. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify if only equipment located at elementary and secondary school facilities will be eligible for funding or will other types of recreational infrastructure also be eligible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, school playgrounds are the only ones that are eligible. They are just for our schools and we are not talking about any other educational facilities. As I indicated, we are looking for applications from the communities. School playgrounds are the only ones that we're talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Question 232 – 4(3): LED Lighting for Nunavummiut

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great that I am able to ask questions now.

Mr. Speaker, the first question I would like to ask is for the Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation. He's the minister for all of Nunavut and I would like to ask him a question.

I really liked his announcement about the LED lights. That's going to save a lot of electrical power. However, looking at Cape Dorset, the community has used up all their land lots and their power plant has reached its maximum capacity. I would first like to ask why the LED lighting was placed in Iqaluit instead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. When it was recognized some years back that Cape Dorset was going to need a new power plant, there were some measures taken into consideration in the meantime to put in emergency generators in the community. Those generators are there to cover the need and anticipated need until such time as we can break ground on the new power plant in Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am a very strong proponent of LED lighting. I actually use it and it really makes a difference. It reduces the consumption of energy and I would love to see it one day for all the territory.

In looking at the overall picture of our territory, Cape Dorset is one community where it's tapped out. They don't have any more capacity. They could use some LED lighting to reduce the consumption use and allow them to grow or allow them to at least get some housing. They haven't had that for a while because the capacity has been met for energy in that community. Can the minister commit to providing at least some LED lighting for that community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is kind of forcing

me to switch hats partway through a question. I understand that it is a strong desire for me that I have always brought to this legislature since I got elected on exploring all ways to identify efficiencies within the power system. The Qulliq Energy Corporation does have staff that works every day to explore different opportunities, different options, and different funding availability to explore more options to access efficiencies and alternative energy.

With regard to providing LED lights, it's something that I have spoken to my staff at Qulliq Energy and as well as the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and I've had some discussions with Community and Government Services. Although I totally understand where the member is coming from on the efficiency of power, we still have to make sure it's a cost-effective way to alleviate pressures on the infrastructure within the community for energy generation.

At the same time, we also have to make sure that it's cost effective for our residents going forward. Those bulbs are not cheap and I can speak for myself personally. I have just retrofitted my own house with LED light bulbs, so I do understand where the member is coming from and it's something that we're looking into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Minister's Statement was there was \$30,000 for LED street lighting, from what I understand, so I believe that's a good investment and I would love to see

some for all of Nunavut, but as we see it today, there are no real prospects of immediate construction of increasing capacity for Cape Dorset. Perhaps the minister can commit to introducing street lighting at least for Cape Dorset to help in reducing the burden on their power generation capacity.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The LED street lighting project here in Iqaluit is something I'm very proud of. When I did make the announcement last week, I spoke specifically to... . As the minister alluded to earlier, I'm the Minister of Qulliq Energy for the entire territory of Nunavut and this is a project that we are looking at rolling out in phases over the entire territory to maximize efficiencies. I will commit to the member that I will take a look at the prioritization of that project to see which communities are in most need for the continued rollout of that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Joe Enook.

Question 233 – 4(3): Fuel Tax Rebate Program

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet and our fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance.

As the minister is very much aware, mining companies that enter into development partnership agreements with the Government of Nunavut are eligible to participate in the government's Fuel Tax Rebate Program.

During last Thursday's sitting, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation stated that, and I'll quote from the *Hansard* for March 3, 2016 which I know is not the final version, "the departments of EDT and Finance have come to the consensus that the Fuel Tax Rebate Program should be cancelled, at least for operating mines."

Can the minister provide a clear explanation for why the government has made this decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I have an ice cube in my mouth here.

Mr. Speaker, the whole Fuel Tax Rebate Program goes way back to 2006-07. At the time, I think there was only one new mine on the horizon and that was Cumberland Resources, subsequently acquired by Agnico Eagle Mines. Since then, there have been a few more mines coming on board. The Tahera mine in the Kitikmeot started, but then it became insolvent. Now we have the Baffinland mine.

Mr. Speaker, at the time, the companies were lobbying for tax breaks from the Government of Nunavut. In exchange for tax breaks, the Government of

Nunavut of the day decided that, “Well, let’s put in place a development partnership agreement similar to the Inuit impact and benefit agreements under Article 26 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.” It’s basically duplicating what was already in place for the most part, but the DPA requires the mining companies to provide the numbers and tangible benefits.

We know that once mines get into production, they will create significant long-term employment, but one of the issues with the DPA is: are we getting the benefits from the DPA that the mine originally agreed to? There’s only one DPA in existence for a producing mine. The question is: do you rebate the taxes for mining exploration in the mine in production and the mine in its reclamation phase?

In a sense, right through from the beginning to the end of the project, it could be five years, it could be 20 years, or it could be longer and you’re rebating a significant amount of fuel taxes. Our internal discussions are, perhaps, that the fuel tax rebate should assist the mines that are in exploration and in development, and once they reach the point where they’re in production, they’re on their own. That’s the internal discussions we’re having. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A part of my question was responded to, but I have another question.

During last Thursday’s sitting, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation also stated that the government, and I quote from the *Hansard* which I know is not the final version, “hope[s] to come up with an agreement in the future where only mineral exploration companies or junior partners starting up would qualify for these rebates.” That’s the end of the quote, Mr. Speaker.

My question is: if these changes are made, how would they benefit Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut encourages mining investment in Nunavut. We’ve got to compete with other jurisdictions in Canada, there are 13 provinces and territories, and we’ve got to compete with the rest of the world. There are huge mining conferences in January, for example, in Vancouver, attracting companies from Canada and attracting companies from around the world. The biggest, maybe in the world, I think is underway right now in Toronto. It’s called the prospectors and developers conference.

The junior miners are looking for investors and the governments are looking to attract investments to their community. Like we say, “Come to our territory,” so we offer all kinds of incentives. One of the ones would be especially for the junior miners. In this global environment, it’s very difficult to raise capital to explore. The government

would be saying, for example, “We will rebate your fuel taxes if you’re in exploration,” and that will help them out.

You will go through your whole process, you identify a project and it looks good, and if you can get the other financing, then you get into development, and then we could rebate as well. Once you get into production and you’re pulling significant resources out of the ground, perhaps it’s time to cut off the fuel tax rebate and they’re on their own. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my final question. On October 28, 2014, the minister tabled his department’s 2012-13 and 2013-14 annual reports on the administration of the Fuel Tax Rebate Program.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for MLAs and the public to know whether or not the government’s programs are meeting their goals if we are not provided with up-to-date information.

Will the minister commit to tabling the 2014-15 annual report before the end of the winter sitting, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can’t make that commitment, but I will check to see what the status is on that. Mr. Speaker, it has been asked elsewhere and other times over the years about this report.

The whole Fuel Tax Rebate Program is intended to support harvesters and mining companies. Probably 95 or maybe 98 percent of the [entire] fuel tax rebate goes to the mining companies. One company in particular has received about 80 percent of the \$19 million the Government of Nunavut has paid out through the Fuel Tax Rebate Program since it was implemented in 2007.

There’s quite a significant amount of money paid out and this is money that could go into programs and services. It could go into an elders facility. It could go into a treatment centre. It could go into all kinds of things. This is one reason we collect fuel taxes from companies, so we can reinvest them in infrastructure and programs in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 234 – 4(3): Transboundary Management of the Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Population

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is well aware, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is currently holding a public written hearing to consider the government’s proposed polar bear management plan.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that this plan has not yet been approved and finalized. However, this plan does include important statistics and priorities related

to the management of polar bear populations in Nunavut.

According to this polar bear management plan, one of the government's priorities concerning the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation is to, and I quote, "Help Quebec to develop a management plan and system to ensure that the Total Allowable Harvest is respected and followed and all harvesting is reported."

Can the minister explain how he is working with his counterparts in Nunavik to ensure that the total allowable harvest is respected and that all harvesting of the southern Hudson Bay subpopulation of bears is being reported? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, this government collaborates with all of their wildlife management partners within Nunavut and other jurisdictions. Due to that reason, the polar bear management plan will be clarified as to how it would be managed. Yes, at this time, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is reviewing the submission by the government and it is considering the decision on that zone.

With respect to the member's question about southern Hudson Bay near Sanikiluaq and the polar bear management zone, it has been a complex issue primarily due to the polar bear management overlaps between Quebec and Ontario in particular. We have worked in partnership with their wildlife departments on this matter. The

complications have revolved around the polar bear management issues related to the Nunavut area.

The reasons for involving jurisdictions outside of Nunavut is because of the fact that polar bear populations are shared. Yes, we encourage partnerships with other jurisdictions as a government, particularly related to polar bears, as some jurisdictions have shared populations and we don't want a change in management between governments. Further, we work well with our colleagues from Quebec for the Nunavik region on polar bear issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community of Sanikiluaq has a total allowable harvest of 20 polar bears from the southern Hudson Bay subpopulation. As of last week, the last of that 20 was caught in the community.

Can the minister indicate whether other jurisdictions that harvest from the southern Hudson Bay subpopulation have respected their total allowable harvest this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): According to my knowledge, yes, they work very closely. However, in regard to the member's question, I will look into this to make sure they are following through with polar bear harvesting outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that information.

Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2014, the federal government announced that territorial and provincial governments as well as hunters, Inuit, Cree organizations, and wildlife management boards had reached an agreement to maintain the effective management and conservation of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation. In that announcement, the federal government indicated that “In November 2016, the relevant parties will meet to review this agreement.”

Can the minister confirm that the Government of Nunavut and relevant HTOs will be meeting later this year with the provincial governments of Ontario and Quebec to discuss the management of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. We cannot control jurisdictions outside of Nunavut. They have their own management, especially for southern Hudson Bay polar bear management. That has been approved by the wildlife management board, along with Nunavik, Nunavut, and Ontario Cree Nation. They wanted to take part in the working of this and

we’re working very closely together.

Today, as the minister, I’m very concerned about this issue, the new quota, and to make sure that the total allowable harvest is followed through because there’s international interest with polar bear management. I believe that there will be good management from Ontario and Quebec. I expect to see a good agreement amongst all parties, along with the federal Minister of the Environment, as he’s also involved. That’s why I expect to see a good management plan for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 235 – 4(3): Development Partnership Agreement Policy

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speakers. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

On February 17, 2007, the Government of Nunavut entered into a development partnership agreement respecting the Meadowbank mine.

During last Thursday’s sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation stated that, and I quote, “the departments of EDT and Finance have come to the consensus that the Fuel Tax Rebate Program should be cancelled, at least for operating mines.”

Can the minister clearly explain what this decision will mean for the development partnership agreement that

is currently in place for the Meadowbank mine? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I didn't quite understand the latter part of his question. Perhaps the member could rephrase his question. I didn't understand when he said, "currently in place." So if he can ask the question again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, please clarify your question.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clearly explain what this decision will mean for the development partnership agreement that is currently in place for the Meadowbank mine? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for the questions regarding this issue. The current agreement, at this time, even if it's changed, the other contents of the agreement, for example, how they provide education and training, how they establish infrastructure, and how the private businesses should be supported in regard to development of the land, all this content will not change. Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During last Thursday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation also stated that the departments of EDT and Finance are, and I quote, "now working on developing a replacement for the development partnership agreement." Can the minister clearly describe what the key elements of this replacement would be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. At this time, it's too early to tell. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 31, 2016, the Government of Nunavut's Development Partnership Agreement Policy is scheduled to expire. Can the minister clearly state whether or not this policy will still be in existence on April 1, 2016? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I'll have to check into that and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 089 – 4(3): Study on Comparison of Approaches for Supporting, Protecting and Encouraging Remote Air Service

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we held our televised hearings last month with Kivalliq Air, First Air, and Canadian North, we had a lot of discussions about how to address affordable and accessible air travel in Nunavut.

I am pleased to table today a copy of a study titled, "Comparison of Approaches for Supporting, Protecting and Encouraging Remote Air Service." This study was submitted through the federal *Canada Transportation Act* review and has recently been made publicly available by the federal Department of Transport.

I encourage all members to review this document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters. Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3) with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 16 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:04 and Committee resumed at 15:26*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 10, 11, 12, and 13 and Tabled Documents 73 – 4(2), 116 – 4(2), 140 – 4(2), 149 – 4(2), and 70 – 4(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of the 2016-17 Main Estimates of the Department of Education. If time permits, we will proceed to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for the Department of Education?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Is the committee agreed that the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Minister, for the record, please introduce your staff.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. With me today to my left is (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister Kathy Okpik (interpretation) and to my right is Marc Rose, Controller for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Welcome to the officials. I just want to remind all members that we are here to review the proposed operations and maintenance budgets for 2016-17. I encourage members to focus their questions on the proposed budgets. Thank you.

We were on page G-4. Education. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations. \$1,221,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Branch Summary. Education. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,716,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On page G-6. Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number of Nunavut schools were badly damaged in 2015. How have these unexpected circumstances affected your capital planning process when things like this happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you will recall, we are discussing O&M. We're not discussing capital items. Perhaps we can keep in mind that we're not talking about capital items presently. She can restate her question so that I can

understand it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: This branch also deals with capital planning. I just wanted to make note of that. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can make a short statement. We add the surpluses that we have onto lifecycle items and that goes towards the money that we budget for. We ask for appropriations looking at annual lifecycles. We request money every year for supplementary appropriations and we use that in different areas. Keeping in mind the lifecycle monies that I just talked about, sometimes no changes are needed. Individual budget items don't get very many changes.

The deputy minister will supplement that, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget totalling \$5 million is for (interpretation ends) lifecycle (interpretation) expenses, which we plan out on an annual basis, including the usages allotted to this fund, whether it is a generator requiring replacement or floor replacement within one of our schools.

This plan covers the contingencies, but sometimes only on an emergency basis, for example, if a spillage occurred inside of a school and unexpected issues crop up occasionally, creating an emergency situation. For these funds within our budget plan, if there is no contract attached, then the emergency is placed on the forefront and resolved first. That

is how we operate within this sphere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice that you have flexibility like that that you can do that.

I'm going to go on to something totally different. I want to talk about the family engagement campaign. You've had this in place for a bit now. I'm just wondering if you can give us the status or an update on how that's going and what kind of feedback that you're having. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. This is, indeed, a priority regarding family engagement within our schools and our students. To date, we continue to reiterate the fact that we have to be visible to the community and clear in how parents can be involved in our schools. To date, members may have noticed televised information announcements on how relatives and parents can become more engaged.

Furthermore, we sent out materials to the schools. We sent materials in 2015 to be used within the schools to facilitate this initiative. It is geared more towards school staff as well as to the relatives and families to see how this initiative can be implemented effectively. As well, things such as the student grades or (interpretation ends) report cards (interpretation) to decipher the progression of the student, this is one of

the areas we speak about related to that engagement.

Further, with respect to parent/teacher gatherings which occur several times throughout a school year called (interpretation ends) parent/teacher meetings, (interpretation) our schools all have that practice.

There are several avenues we can use, such as electronic data or computers. As well, we partner with NTI and ITK to develop the information cooperatively. This is an ongoing partnership.

If we recall, in 2014-15, we spent \$96,438 and during 2015-16, we spent \$169,204 for this program on how families can be more involved. There are still different things that we are producing today.

We're also working with Outcrop Nunavut on what can be produced in the communication plan and we have worked with them on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I commend them on their efforts. I think that would go a long ways, I hope, and you will see good results.

I'm reading from your business plan. You talk about streamlining departmental operations, procedures, and standards of service. I'm wondering what led you to that. What were some of the problems and, by using this process, how are you addressing some of those challenges? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. This has been an ongoing deliberation or rather I have maintained that we need a standardized curricula or at a minimum to be able to move anywhere. These are the areas early in the year where I directed our officials to research ways on standardizing the operations of our schools, including the curricula and regional operations. The main reasoning behind this is how to go about standardizing the curricula so that it improves our current system.

As an example, just as a hypothetical situation, if I was a student in Gjoa Haven and we moved to Whale Cove or Pond Inlet or anywhere in Nunavut, I would be able to continue a standard curriculum. The reasoning behind this was when some of our students moved to another community, they were faced with different courses or classes than they had taken previously. This was quite noticeable and that was our main reason.

Nonetheless, we know that standardizing our schools won't be immediately resolved, but we will continue to work towards that goal. As an example, different issues I can speak to within that context include the (interpretation ends) Student Information System (interpretation) that requires standardizing. The result is a standardized system we are now utilizing. We are also using the new (interpretation ends) HR database (interpretation) that is specific towards

hiring staff and how we can standardize this process.

Further, within our schools, the staff training needs and to ensure that we create a process that is standard to our (interpretation ends) principals, learning coaches, (interpretation) student support teachers, (interpretation ends) student support assistants, (interpretation) school counsellors, as well as the local DEAs. These categories are where we have provided training in the past that had us wondering how best to provide a standard training process.

These are the different areas that we have noted and it includes literacy initiatives such as (interpretation ends) literacy books and assessments (interpretation) that we have worked on to standardize. Those are the areas we have worked on in order to have a more standard education system within all of Nunavut. They need a standard curriculum and that's where we stand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan, one of the bullets under priorities for this coming fiscal year states that, amongst other things, one of the things is to "review the overall strategic direction of the department." Do you feel your department needs to be going a different direction or what do you really mean by that statement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With education being a priority, as a government, it needs to be implemented properly. Perhaps my deputy minister will supplement my response. I want this to be clear to you, so I'll get help from my deputy minister if that's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Over the last number of years, we've had different priorities given to the Department of Education and various mandates.

Some of the mandates, for example, that had changed for the Department of Education were to move away from developing our curriculum to adopting and adapting curriculum. We had to look internally to look at does our organization best fit how we do our day-to-day business, for example. We're looking at our current structure and looking at how we can assist regional school operations so that they do their job in terms of educational leadership, looking at the administrative components and those types of things.

We have been really proud of our department. We have undertaken now for the second year in a row an annual planning process. We have the main estimates, the business planning documents, and we create an internal working document that guides us with more detail following the business plan and the main estimates. It breaks all the work plans down by division, what all of our achievements are, and what the measurements should be for completing.

That's the internal working document that we use to guide us.

The other thing we have recently had our staff participate in professional development is on project management. Because we live in an environment where we undertake so many projects within education, we felt that we had to create an internal document that is called the "Project Management Directive." Any project that we engage in has a project charter so that it's fully fleshed out with timelines and the deliverables.

Those are some of the things that we have done internally to bring accountability within our organization. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds like that's a lot of work.

When we talk about changes, doing different projects, and perhaps having a different direction within the department, what has been your feedback from the teachers? At the end of the day, they're the ones to deliver these programs. What involvement do they have in the development of these projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for requesting further information on this matter. This has provided a tremendous benefit to our staff, particularly to our teachers, as it assists them. Obviously, whenever a new initiative is undertaken or a directive is

sent out, our foremost priority is offering effective training. The teachers have enjoyed this as it increases their professional abilities. Although we have provided training for the teachers, it will assist our student body as well as our teachers. This increases their professionalism, at least from my perspective, as I see the benefits. I believe we have to offer the best available training for our teachers.

Any new programs or initiatives will follow that, but this program has been of great benefit. Our teachers also are part of our (interpretation ends) working groups (interpretation) that create the new initiatives. That is one avenue to assist us, especially in new training courses. We have working groups and teachers are engaged in this process, which has resulted in better programming, at least from a departmental perspective. This is also based on what we have heard and read about this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us, then, if this has increased the workload of teachers? I'm just curious. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to her question, no, as it doesn't add to their duties or responsibilities as this doesn't create additional work. However, we use the training to conduct

(interpretation ends) surveys (interpretation) for teachers taking the courses as a means to get feedback from them. With respect to the member's question, no, it doesn't add any further work to their duties and responsibilities, but these are more towards professional development as teachers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go on to something different. I want to talk about the Nunavut Community Access Program. This program provides the community Internet access and is supported through your department's grants and contributions process. I think it was last year or the year before; I can't remember now. At one time, the department was going to cancel this project, but now we see that the budget has actually doubled since 2015-16.

Are you providing more access sites and, if so, in which communities? I guess I'll start with that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's going to be for the administrative staff in the schools. I hope I answered your question. The Nunavut Community Access Program is directed for the administrative staff in the schools. I hope I responded to your question. If I did not, please rephrase your question.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps it's me that doesn't understand the program. I thought that this is the program where community members could access the Internet, going to the libraries or going to adult education centres. This is what I thought it was. Maybe the minister can clarify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for requesting that information. I will have my deputy minister supplement my response, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okpik.

Mr. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Historically, with the programming for the CAP sites, the Department of Education had provided a part-time position to be able to support the board with some of its administration. We felt that if they wanted to have autonomy and to be arm's-length, we felt we could support them better by providing them with extra funds for them to be able to hire their own administrative staff to be able to support the CAP sites. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you very much for that response. Maybe you could clarify, then, for some of the public. One

of the questions that have come to me before was that the site was held, let's say, in Arctic College and then Arctic College was closed for the summer, so they couldn't access the site anymore. If you guys aren't the ones they should address this with, who should they address this with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If anybody would like further information, they can go directly to the CAP site board or to their chairs. I can get additional information on who is there to all the members. You can go directly to the board or the chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would appreciate that very much because that's a vital service to a lot of people, especially the smaller communities that really don't have any other way of accessing the Internet. That's very important to them.

I guess my last question is going to be about the *Child Day Care Act*. It says in your business plan that the department is going to do a comprehensive review. I was wondering if you could tell us the status of that. When should we expect to review draft amendments to that Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. We have interpreters. As a reminder, please slow down when you

are talking. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for the question regarding the *Child Day Care Act*. There's also private daycare available. It's going to have an effect on our operations. We have completed our consultations on the *Child Day Care Act*. We are working on it now. We're starting to have consultations as we're going to be amending the *Child Day Care Act*.

There are two Acts. There's the *Child Day Care Act*, which we are looking to complete in 2016-17. The review process will go until then to get information and feedback. We will be doing that right up until the fall of 2016. That's the only way to do it. I can add that to date, there are currently two established school daycares here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I do apologize to the interpreters for speaking too fast.

When are you going to start the consultations? Summer is just around the corner. (interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I said it, but I'll just repeat it. We're looking at this coming fall of 2016. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Quassa and your officials to the House.

Before I go to my question, I just want clarification on what I heard yesterday. It's not something that we're looking at. I think it was on G-4. I just want clarification on what I heard about the *Education Act*, that there were going to be some meetings or consultations with the communities and organizations about people who work with education policies or regulations. The *Education Act* was reviewed by a special committee and they have produced a report. Will there be any more community consultations on the *Education Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, we went through that section already. However, if the minister would like to respond to that, it's up to him. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I referred to it briefly when we were sitting here last time. This coming fall, we would expect the (interpretation ends) consultations (interpretation) to continue. At this current time, it is still being developed within the government bureaucracy.

We need to review this with various departments, such as Family Services, (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage, (interpretation) amongst others we have met with in the past.

Furthermore, within the government consultation process, we have to check with our lawyers at (interpretation ends) Justice. (interpretation) This process will continue.

Our expectations are close to my previous statement that we expect this process to continue into February and March, just the past month we were on. As per my earlier remark, we are canvassing our fellow departments by sending our questions arising from our government. This is all (interpretation ends) internal (interpretation) government consultations.

We expect that in April and May 2016, we will commence our external consultations with various organizations, such as NTI and local DEAs. We will have to consult with these bodies. I believe I stated that we expect to complete the consultations this fall. We expect to be able to table this work in the Legislative Assembly at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response and clarification. Mr. Chairman, under page G-6, I would like to ask the minister a question about student attendance rates. It has been brought up in the past that perhaps it can have an impact on local school funding for the following year, including the number of teachers based on the numbers of students.

There is a ratio for student-teacher numbers and allocations are accrued to the schools based on the numbers of

students. Can the minister elaborate on whether barriers or challenges have cropped up under this category of student attendance rates? Is this process being remedied to improve it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am unsure which particular item he is referring to with his question. As an example, we use different tracking systems, such as the (interpretation ends) Student Information System (interpretation) specific to our students to keep track of our student bodies. That is one system.

If we know, there is also the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Student Information System (interpretation) which tracks the total amount of students within our territory. This shows the attendance rates throughout Nunavut. This system is also ongoing.

The management tools are very beneficial to our department and the (interpretation ends) Student Information System (interpretation) is reviewed annually and it determines the exact numbers of our students. It is very important to decipher the true numbers of our students. It also provides benefits to our local organizations. You were truthful in stating that this information is used to determine the number of teachers to be allotted as well as funding levels.

As well, according to the (interpretation ends) *Education Act*, (interpretation) it highlights how the teachers are allotted. We have to adhere to this ratio as set out in the legislation, as this legislation is applicable to all of Canada.

There are slightly different management tools used, including (interpretation ends) student enrolment and student-educator ratio, as well as the Student Information System (interpretation) that governs that. I am unsure which he was asking about and perhaps I just misunderstood him, so I would ask that he clarify which system he was referring to, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking about both. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): He said that it's for both. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I stated earlier, in our Act, it clearly outlines how many teachers we can have in one school. That's SER. When we have a certain number of students, we can have one teacher for that many students. It's Canadian law and 13.8 to 1 is the student-educator ratio that we have to follow. However, we need to follow a better student-educator ratio in Nunavut.

The Student Information System really helps us know who attends school. The student-educator ratio follows the numbers we get from the Student Information System. The Student Information System is what we follow. Once we get the numbers from the Student Information System, we apply the student-educator ratio. I hope I responded to both of your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the minister expects me to ask this question because I asked this question last week about school attendance. Looking at all of Nunavut, the (interpretation ends) Student Information System (interpretation) is where you keep track of the students who attend school. In the system, do you have a breakdown of students that attend monthly or at the beginning of the school year? Do you track the number of students that attend and follow student attendance? I'm just trying to see how many students started at the beginning of the school year in September and how many we have left today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. Perhaps you're asking about Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want him to explain his question a little bit more.

Chairman (interpretation): Please clarify your question, Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if you can give me the Cape Dorset information and then afterwards give me the information for the rest of Nunavut, I'm sure my colleagues want to know the attendance of their students as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Student Information System is what we use for all of Nunavut. For example, it shows who is enrolled at the beginning of the school year and then the actual attendance information like for the report cards using various management tools to determine the various numbers and where exactly our student body is at. It is a daily reference tool. However, it is more specific to the higher grades, such as grades 10, 11, and 12. This is specific to each classroom or the class size, and that is how they view these database figures.

If we are aware of the attendance rates and enrolment numbers, the first source of information are the teachers' notes on students attending classrooms. This is how they delineate the various numbers. Additionally, in the higher grades as well... . What can I use? This is specific (interpretation ends) by subject (interpretation) and this is how they determine the numbers of students attending different classes. The attendance is then verified using the teachers' notes as well as the (interpretation ends) Student Information System (interpretation) that has the data inputted into it.

Hopefully I was clear in response to my colleague. I believe he was expecting actual figures, of that I am not sure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I expected numbers. I wonder if he can provide specifics just for clarification purposes, perhaps even to speak to trends, whether it is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same. What I wanted to understand was the trend in the numbers.

I don't need to hear about all of Nunavut's attendance rates. If you can sidestep that in your response and perhaps include it in a written document, it would suffice. At this time, I wanted to know what kind of trends is prevalent or even just the (interpretation ends) average (interpretation) across our region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for requesting information on that front. This is, indeed, an important issue.

Now, I can speak to the past years' data, which I have some figures for up to now. If we look at Nunavut as a whole, as an example from fiscal year 2014-15, not an actual number but a (interpretation ends) percentage, (interpretation) it was 78.3 percent larger than the previous fiscal year of 2013-14. If we also look at the enrolment figures for all of Nunavut by extrapolating the actual eligible possible students, we would come up with 75.2 percent. That is the trend we have noticed by including all potential students through the (interpretation ends) percentage (interpretation) that I can speak to.

This again is stemming from the (interpretation ends) Student Information System (interpretation) created in 2013, when the software was first installed, and it is used primarily for data for grades 9 to 12. Once we started using this management tool, we found (interpretation ends) more accurate (interpretation) numbers. These are actual numbers of students. This was a very good management tool.

Let's not forget that the *Education Act* has a provision that the DEAs and the Department of Education have to table that information (interpretation ends) annually to the public. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you. I also wish to thank the minister for his response to my question. With respect to the Student Information System, I was hoping for a regional breakdown with community numbers, including the student attendance rates. I wonder if the minister can provide written details and I will expect that information whenever it is ready.

To move to another matter, this was brought up earlier related to the community broadband issue, that an administrator would be responsible for the (interpretation ends) grants and contributions (interpretation) programs.

He also referred to another committee. Is there a committee Nunavut-wide for the (interpretation ends) Community Access Program? (interpretation) Other funds have committees. Can any community apply towards computer purchases under

this program? Did I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member for his question. We have a complete figure for each community. Yes, we can provide that information to the members if they want it. We have the figures to provide on the Student Information System for the communities.

For the latter part of my colleague's question, perhaps the deputy minister can respond through you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These (interpretation ends) CAP sites (interpretation) have proven to be very beneficial to Nunavummiut. Some of this information is within our schools while some information is in our libraries and some information is held outside of the schools.

Nonetheless, it is administered by the committees and our department doesn't administer this program. Firstly, when the cuts first came about, they experienced an \$85,000 cut, which we replaced to allow the operations to continue. They also receive funding from the federal government.

Additionally, our department wishes to provide more support through the (interpretation ends) contribution agreements (interpretation) to this

program so that their staff will have their own funds to operate this, as this is independent from our department. They do not submit funding applications to our department for this item. It is obvious in the communities that if they want to start a specific program within their local school, they submit that request to the local DEA.

However, with respect to the actual numbers, I don't have them, but we will be able to provide that information upon request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Are you satisfied now? (interpretation ends) We are on Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,152,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Branch Summary. Education. K-12 School Operations. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Alexander Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The budget for the Kindergarten to Grade 12 School Operations Branch is projected to increase by \$3.5 million in 2016-17. Can you describe how the additional funds will be spent on what positions and on what programs and resources? Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for that question. The

\$800,000 to increase the teachers union for compensation and benefits was already agreed to and had to go ahead.

In addition, the matter we have discussed in the House that is being developed to be called (interpretation ends) inclusive education (interpretation) is applicable to every potential student options. Through this program, there are eight new positions that we have identified as possible openings.

In the same category regarding teachers and the student ratio, if we were to count the total numbers of students following that survey, then the need for more teachers becomes readily apparent. Therefore, we have identified 9.5 positions for teachers specific to that number.

These are the main three areas I have alluded to in my remarks about the increases to the positions, which are a part of this funding allocation request. Further, obviously, it includes our operational funds, which is the main reason for the increase in the Department of Education's main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 School Operations Division contributions listed on page G-12 is \$14,000 for the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada. Can you describe what these funds will be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will no longer be using that fund, if I understood the member's question correctly. Perhaps the member could elaborate on his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Prior to going to the member, Hon. Minister, he is referring to G-12 main estimates 2016-17, \$14,000, Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada. Would you like to add to it? Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For all of Canada, the ministers of education have a society called CMAC. It is composed of all the education ministers in the various jurisdictions in Canada. The initiative came from that society to create that. However, afterwards, CMAC approved a decision that they would no longer use that forum, which is what I can state to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's business plan for 2016-17 indicates that the budget allocations for the three regional school operations divisions will increase by over \$2 million. What will this additional funding be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can clarify this matter for the member as it is specific to the regional education offices. As per my earlier statement, \$1,140,000 will be specific to the eight new positions. That is the (interpretation ends) eight PYs (interpretation) that are for the (interpretation ends) regional student support manager (interpretation) with one in the Kivalliq, one in the Kitikmeot, and one in the Baffin.

There is a (interpretation ends) student support consultant (interpretation) in the Baffin. I will just identify these in English if you don't mind. (interpretation ends) The behaviour and social-emotional learning coordinator (interpretation) will be located in our headquarters. This will add one PY. Further, the (interpretation ends) counselling development coordinator (interpretation) will also be housed in our offices at headquarters with one PY. The coordinator for the (interpretation ends) student achievement (interpretation) is also in headquarters totalling one PY. This includes the (interpretation ends) student support coordinator (interpretation) in English, which is the (interpretation ends) psychologist (interpretation) at the high school here in Iqaluit, which is also to be based out of headquarters. That is also one PY.

The other fund of \$521,000 is for the (interpretation ends) inclusive education (interpretation) operations and the \$250,000 is the contribution for the shared Nunavut Arctic College programming. That is specific to them. As I have reiterated about (interpretation ends) inclusive education, (interpretation) it is what this is geared

towards within Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. A. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Career and program planning for high school students has been a long-term priority for your department. Your business plan indicates that labour market information from the Department of Family Services will be shared with students and school staff to ensure information about the job opportunities, career path, and funding options that are available. Can you provide further details on how this initiative will be carried out and how its success will be evaluated? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for requesting information on that. So that he can get a clear response, I'll ask my deputy minister to elaborate on that, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Using my language, it's okay with me. Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been an ongoing issue we have dealt with for quite a while related to (interpretation ends) career planning, (interpretation) which starts at grade 7 and continues to grades 8 and 9 as they start preparing for the high school courses that form their career path.

They have to research the types of careers they would like to pursue both within Nunavut and service providers related to the Department of Family Services, as that is under their department. We have to collaborate with them to deal with this. Our officials have met with various representatives to see how to ensure it moves forward.

As a matter of fact, we are currently publishing books under the (interpretation ends) guided reading (interpretation) program that is more standardized. We brainstormed with the Department of Health to determine which career paths are interesting to the students. We will be compiling the various careers within a booklet, in conjunction with our department to publish the same formatted booklets.

There are two main usages for these books, both for guided reading and to determine potential career paths existing within Nunavut that can prepare them for the courses they take in high school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on K-12 School Operations. Following the list of names, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister. Let me first go back to the question that was asked. Mr. Chairman, on the \$14,000, I know and I'm aware that this is not a huge amount of money, but my concern, according to the minister's response, is that you were already aware that this is not going to be used. Why is it still here in the estimates? Are you going to be using it somewhere else if it's approved? Thank

you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for asking for clarification. We're willing to take it out of the estimates. It was already in the document and we didn't hear until it was too late that the number was already in the document. That's the main reason and it happens occasionally. The document is already put together and we aren't able to strike it out. That's the main reason and it's not that we're trying to get extra funding. We just could not strike it out after it went through in the document. The ministers of education in Canada made a decision after the fact. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm always learning. If we hadn't asked about the \$14,000, would it have stayed in the approved document, even though it's not going to be used? Since we asked about it, now we know it's not going to be used. What was going to happen to it if we didn't ask about it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you are voting, it will be up to you on what we're requesting within our budget. If we recall, we're mainly talking about the \$14,000 that was going to be used for

exchanges outside of Canada.

You will be voting on this and we will be able to utilize it somewhere else if you don't take it out of the budget for different areas. For instance, Outward Bound, Red Cross, or the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program are different types of programs that have utilized this type of funding. We could contribute towards that, but it's up to you.

As I stated earlier, it was already in the document and we couldn't take it out. (interpretation ends) Once it gets in the budget cycle, you can't take it out. (interpretation) That's the main reason it's there. We would be able to use it in other areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know \$14,000 is not very much money. I wonder how many times we have approved amounts that weren't going to be used and we weren't informed about them because we didn't ask about it. This is a small amount. If we hadn't asked about it, we would have approved it even though it wasn't going to be used. That is my concern. As we asked about it now, we hear that it wasn't going to be used and that's my only concern.

If I can use it as a guide, our government keeps stating that we have to be transparent. When all the ministers go in front of our committee, they have opening comments. The opening comments are drawn up just before the meeting. You could have just said in one line that this amount won't be used anymore. I don't think that takes very

much work. For instance, I can think that I was going to approve something that wasn't going to be utilized.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps to refer back to the English version page G-12, which speaks to \$24,987,000, and if this can be amended prior to our approval of the main estimates, I want that clearly marked as expunged from this amount. If it is not going to be used, it cannot form part of this package.

I am just providing direction to all the ministers as they are all listening in that whenever an amount changes, it is not complicated to provide additional statements to your opening comments outlining the changes or funds that are no longer to be used. The government always speaks about accountability, our government I mean.

I want to ask a question related to this item. If I am correct, we are on page G-7, Mr. Chairman. It is on this issue, which seems to be an ongoing priority, yet we rarely hear about Inuktitut curriculum development. Standardizing our Nunavut curriculum is often the subject of statements. What is the status of this Inuktitut curriculum development and standardization in that aspect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to clarify for my colleague. That is the only amount where that is the case and there are no other areas where that happened. This is the very first time.

As we stated earlier, yes, what you're saying is true that we can restate it. Please keep aware, for instance, in English, (interpretation ends) the department would have lapsed it and it goes back into the general revenue in the next cycle. (interpretation) We will then have been able to do that. I would like to point out that I think this is the first time that has ever happened; it hasn't happened before.

Your question on curriculum development, I think, is geared more towards (interpretation ends) Curriculum and School Services (interpretation) on page G-8. This question is on that page, but I can answer it. The curriculum from the outside, such as (interpretation ends) guided reading and guided writing, (interpretation) we have been translating them into Inuktitut for use in schools. Things that come from down south need to be made relevant to Nunavut.

Right now, as a department, we're working with different tools for Inuit language of instruction. We're developing new Inuktitut language arts starting from kindergarten to grade 6. That has been completed, as well as Inuit language curriculum from kindergarten to grade 6. For the higher grades, grades 7 to 9, we will be implementing that. Inuktitut language in-service training in 2015-16 will be geared more towards these kinds of training purposes.

I'm not sure if I responded to his question or not. I don't know what the case is, but these are the ones where we're developing Inuit language of instruction from kindergarten to grade 9. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought it was on G-7, school operations. I thought we were on educational programs and I thought curriculum was included there. I have more questions, but maybe I'll just wait until we go to G-8. I would like your direction, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The minister has already answered your first question along that line. If you want to ask further questions along those lines, you can proceed. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a question for the minister. In some years, we used to have Inuktitut curriculum development. Are we not utilizing that anymore? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we still utilize them today. We are starting to produce guided reading and writing materials. We're going to keep using them because they have a very good understanding of what should be taught in the schools. All the new productions are coming out of that branch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is one in Pond Inlet. How many staff does the department have and how many Inuit are

producing the curriculum? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I can't give you numbers directly, but we produce a lot of curriculum up there in Pond Inlet and there are also other offices in the other regions. We produce Inuktitut curriculum up there and it's obvious that we will have good staff in those offices developing Inuktitut curriculum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, if the minister can agree, I would like to hear the numbers. I'm sure that you will be able to give them to me and I can also give copies to the other members.

I'll move on. On the same page, you mention the DEAs here. I think it's the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities. What is your working relationship with that coalition and how do you fund them? What is your reasoning for providing this amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe my colleague is referring to the (interpretation ends) coalition (interpretation) representing the DEAs. Yes, that is a very significant organization and we share that

acknowledgement as it is also listed in the *Education Act*. They are legally recognized in that legislation.

Every year, the coalition has received funding for operational matters. The daily uses of the funds identified in the budgets are the (interpretation ends) advertising and promotion, (interpretation) honoraria for the committee members, (interpretation ends) insurance, office expenses (interpretation) incurred daily, and (interpretation ends) professional fees, (interpretation) as they sometimes contract out work to assist their operations. Corporate operations, telephones, and translations, including the various operational expenses, are just examples of how the funding is used. This applies to their contributions as well, as it is laid out in the agreement annually for the purpose of the funds. These (interpretation ends) contribution agreements (interpretation) come from our department for their annual funding.

For fiscal year 2015-16, if we were to look at that year, we have set aside \$665,000 for DEA operational funding. We collaborate on these important issues and they assist us with the communications to their local DEAs along with other areas requiring cooperation. This includes training as well. We work together where required to administer the education system in our communities.

As well, we just held a meeting with the coalition executive as to what the funds provided to the community DEAs requirements are and what expectations the department has on the provision of this funding, including any surplus funds and what has to be done.

There are different areas that we work on after we meet with the coalition, which, in turn, is disseminated to the local DEAs. Later on this month, we have scheduled another meeting with the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for clarifying the role of the coalition, but I don't think my earlier question was clearly answered.

I know you just stated that \$665,000 was provided to them last year, but my question was, "What is your reasoning for providing this amount?" As an example of a reason, let's say that last year when you got up one morning, you suddenly decided that you would give the coalition \$665,000 for their operations. What is the foundation used to determine that amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the *Education Act* was drafted and enacted, it directed the government to provide funding to the bodies that are identified within the legislation, as it clearly states so in section 190 of the *Education Act* and further listed in section 191, which I believe is specific to this question.

It states that the minister shall provide funding to the DEA coalition, agreed to by the minister and (interpretation ends) determined by the minister in

consultation with the coalition (interpretation) and that is the language. Perhaps I can state that section in English or I can try to juggle between it and Inuktitut. Anyways, (interpretation ends) (a) To fund two staff positions, (interpretation) it's clearly identified, (interpretation ends) including the cost of office space, furnishings, equipment, and supplies. (interpretation) These line items are clearly identified in the Act.

Further, it speaks to operational items such as travel and accommodations if they are attending meetings, which our department has to pay for. Also, it speaks about an annual general meeting, if one is held that delegates from the communities and their travel-related expenses shall be paid by the department. Additionally, in every community where a DEA exists, one representative will also be paid to attend the AGM of the coalition.

Within section 191, it also states that the minister shall provide direction on the use of funds specific to operational expenses. It provides certain areas where the department can provide direction. Furthermore, (interpretation ends) the goals and objectives (interpretation) also have to be clearly denoted to our department to identify their direction for the upcoming year. That is what we follow when providing funding for these organizations.

Ever since the *Education Act* was enacted, from fiscal year 2008-09, the requirements have never changed as to the use of funds provided by the department, which includes the set amount that has also never changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Branch Summary. Education. K-12 School Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$173,094,000. Agreed? Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2016-17, one of your priorities is to “Ensure consistency and quality in curriculum across Nunavut that will enable student success, not only in Nunavut, but in any Canadian jurisdiction.”

I would like to get an update from the minister on this initiative that was taken to make sure that the high school graduates can go anywhere and have the same level of education. Are we up to par now with the rest of Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Feel free to raise your hands. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that I can get it clearly, what exactly are you referring to? I can speak in Inuktitut. I just want clarification. Maybe my colleague can explain his question a little bit more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Please rephrase your question, Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan on page 92, it’s one of your priorities for 2016-17, fifth bullet. I’ll read it in English. (interpretation ends) It’s to “Ensure consistency and quality in curriculum across Nunavut that will enable student success, not only in

Nunavut, but in any Canadian jurisdiction.”

(interpretation) What kinds of steps are being taken to measure the adequacy of Nunavut’s high school graduation standards when you compare them to graduation standards across Canada? What works have been done to make them on par? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has raised an excellent question. If we looked at an overview of the systems in Alberta and the NWT, they have a very similar system for their high school curriculum. There is a requirement to pass the (interpretation ends) diploma exams (interpretation) and in that manner, we share that set-up with Alberta and the NWT.

With respect to the junior grades, Nunavut uses different curriculum than the (interpretation ends) other jurisdictions (interpretation) aside from the two I just mentioned. However, we all have to be clear and observant in ensuring that it is not vastly different, perhaps not having any (interpretation ends) gaps. (interpretation) We will need to monitor this carefully, just as we are now.

Perhaps I have answered that adequately. As we continue to maintain throughout, our students’ capabilities or capacity building have to be similar to other Canadians, even if we are outside of Nunavut, to have a strong education foundation here in Nunavut that translates to other learning institutions

outside. I just wanted to add to that. I hope I responded to his question properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That seems overwhelming to be done by one person. Many statements have been made about high school graduates in Nunavut who chose easy subjects and whose diploma is not even indicative of their actual grades. This is especially true for youth who have aspirations of going to post-secondary education.

I also noted that perhaps it is due to unrealistic expectations since that priority is listed twice on page 92. I refer to (interpretation ends) bullet 5 and bullet 9, (interpretation) as the language seems very similar. Could it be that by placing such emphasis on this priority that we forget what we are trying to produce?

Many parents harbour concerns about this and I cannot even add any further emphasis on that, yet I want to know what plans we have for the future the way the language is set up. I refer to our curriculum and its (interpretation ends) quality (interpretation) related to standardization. I believe we were talking about having the same curricula anywhere in Nunavut. For example, if you're from Qikiqtarjuaq and you moved west to Kugluktuk, you should be learning the same subjects, perhaps even to Ontario, as this is hypothetical.

Has the review highlighted changes that are needed? That is what I was trying to

find out, but if he prefers not to respond, I can move to another subject.

In December, the Department of Education announced changes to the departmental exams written to assess students' core knowledge on each subject. I wanted to know if that means changes to the student marks or what changes were enacted for these final exams prior to students graduating, (interpretation ends) final marks.

(interpretation) In addition, I would like him to elaborate on the changes they have implemented and what improvements they expect from these changes. Are your expectations higher with these changes as to the future numbers of graduates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let us all be aware that I'm pushing hard for this as well. We try to initiate improvements in our schools because our students have to have all the abilities. We keep trying to find ways to improve things for our students. That's what we do in our schools because it is our mandate.

If you look at the grade 12 students, their education has to be the same if they're going to graduate. They have to be able to complete that standard in Nunavut that can be on par with what's recognized in the rest of Canada. (interpretation ends) We have to use that standard. (interpretation) If I get my grade 12 from anywhere in Nunavut, then my grade 12 should be able to be applied anywhere in Canada. That is

always our goal for our schools. We always say that that's one of our first priorities, (interpretation ends) graduates equal to those from any school in Canada.

(interpretation) When our students are finishing their schooling and do their departmental exams, we have to do that because it's the recognized way of testing to make sure the student will be allowed to graduate or not. If our students are interested in going on to university or college, then they have to finish their grade 12 properly and complete the exams that they have to follow. That's what they have to do.

In the previous fiscal year, 2015-16, the departmental exams were changed by Alberta. It used to be 50-50. They would look at the whole year for 50 percent of the mark. The whole year would be based on 50-50. Half of it would be based on your mark and the other 50 percent would be done through exams. That has been changed. It's now 70-30. The 70 percent would be for the student's progress. What the student does during the year in the school would be 70 percent and the exams would be the remaining 30 percent.

We can't just give out grade 12 diplomas. We need to give out grade 12 diplomas that are properly recognized. This is a complex issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 90, you also state in your business plan that you're creating a resource document that would be used in the Nunavut schools.

The title of the document is "It Starts at Home." It has been developed to provide "comprehensive information to school staff and families." Can you describe the types of information included in this document and how it will be distributed to students and their families? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. The resource document is called "It Starts at Home" because it really does start at home and how parents can be more involved. As we stated, we're working with ITK and NTI on this. We go on CBC and APTN to explain how parents can be more involved with their schools for successful graduations.

I can give all of my colleagues a copy of the document that's called "It Starts at Home." Anyone can get a copy. Because we say that parents are the first teachers of kids, even before the children get into school, children start learning from their parents. That's the main reason for this document that's called "It Starts at Home."

As I stated, we work with ITK to develop this document. In 2015, they had \$5,000 available that could be used so that parents can see how they can be more involved in the schools.

Arctic Bay's Inuujaq School was one of the schools that requested money. The education authority would have radio shows about how they can better work together and how the parents can be more involved.

In Cape Dorset, the Sam Pudlat School and Peter Pitseolak School started using this as well.

From ITK, the \$5,000 that they had available was for anybody to request. Including Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, and Nauyasat, this funding was used in the five communities for parents to see how they can be more involved in the schooling of our students. That was it up to now.

We're going to keep running the ads on TV to show how parents can be more involved in the schools with the students. The local DEAs will be doing more promotion of this as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. I don't know how long I have wanted to mention this. The information that the department provides encourages parents to participate and be more involved so that the students can graduate. The department is trying to inform Inuit in English about this engagement activity, (interpretation ends) "Parents: Motivate. Students: Participate. Together we can graduate."

(interpretation) It seems like there's something missing and I just wanted to make a comment on that. For example, (interpretation ends) "Teachers: Educate" (interpretation) seems to be missing. It looks like this was forgotten. Perhaps you can include that in your advertisement. It seems like these advertisements are missing that part. I

just wanted to comment on that.

I wanted to supplement the question that I had asked before in regard to attendance of our students, which is one of the issues the students face when they're doing their school work and to pass. Perhaps the department has more information to encourage various schools. I believe that there are incentive programs for students to attend school. There are incentives across Nunavut schools.

Can you provide further detail on how different school attendance initiatives are monitored? They should be monitored for success. Is there an opportunity for the Department of Education to do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for that question. In regard to the comments he made earlier, yes, we are now reviewing that this year and we will review it again next year to see how we can improve what he just mentioned, (interpretation ends) "Parents: Motivate," (interpretation) and even the one he just mentioned, (interpretation ends) Teachers: Participate." (interpretation) I just wanted the member to know that we can look into that for sure. That was the very first advertisement that we set up, but we're always open to more suggestions on how we can improve that so that it can be clearer to the public. We are reviewing some of these things.

For the last part of your question, we allocate funding to the DEAs annually,

for example, to be used for student attendance money and that's the title we use for that funding. It's geared towards incentive programs. We usually provide the local DEAs with funding for that incentive program for students to stay in school. It can be used for various things such as on-the-land programs. It can be used for various programs. That's how we provide the funding for incentive programs to all local DEAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. Additionally, I wonder if this information will be disseminated to the DEAs, as this would allow them to research how other communities have undertaken these incentive models, perhaps as a way to encourage local DEAs of other ideas. I am just commenting on that for now.

This will formulate my last question. Your department recently introduced the (interpretation ends) learning coaches (interpretation) to assist within our schools. This also related to the (interpretation ends) literacy coordinators, (interpretation) perhaps related to teaching reading skills. I am unsure of the corresponding Inuktitut word.

Can you provide an update as to how this additional position has been implemented or the events that have transpired to date? Do all communities have these positions and, if not, why not? I just want that clarified for my information and that is my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for requesting information on this initiative. Absolutely, in reference to the (interpretation ends) learning coaches (interpretation) who provide assistance to our teachers, they are brand-new positions and they were set for all the communities.

To date, for the Kitikmeot region, seven of eight positions for the learning coaches are filled. For the Kivalliq region, 12 positions were identified and all 12 have been filled. For the Qikiqtaaluk region, there were 22 positions identified. Just two of these positions have been filled, although we have earmarked 22 positions. It is due to the difficulty of housing these positions that has created the barrier to hiring people for these positions. Last year, that was an observation noted in the Baffin region as a shortage of staff housing resulted in our inability to fill them.

Also, in this fiscal year when positions are created, especially new ones, we have run into issues that I mentioned earlier, such as the school year already ongoing without people in the (interpretation ends) learning coach (interpretation) position. That was an issue. As per my earlier statement as well, housing continues to be a barrier with (interpretation ends) staff housing (interpretation) shortages. Once we have resolved that challenge, the learning coach positions can be filled.

Let's also note that positions eligible for housing are categorized differently, with some positions a priority for housing

while others are placed on a waiting list. That is how it usually is set for particular positions within government and in the Department of Education. Due to that issue, the (interpretation ends) learning coach (interpretation) positions in the Baffin region have to be the priority, which is what we are focusing on.

Nonetheless, as per my earlier remarks about the positions in the other regions, the majority of positions in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq are filled. Yes, these are the challenges in the Baffin region, but when the positions were first created, we were supposed to have 22 in the Baffin region, 8 in the Kitikmeot, and 12 in the Kivalliq. That is the overall number of positions for these (interpretation ends) learning coaches.

(interpretation) The other position we spoke about was the (interpretation ends) literacy coordinator. (interpretation) Perhaps the member may be curious about the numbers or maybe he would prefer a regional breakdown. I would ask that he identify which area he wants clarification on so that I can understand his concerns about this other position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): The member has run out of time. Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we haven't talked about yet is the French school here. I think it was last year, the French school was experiencing some real challenges in terms of its board of directors and the parents. There were a lot of angry parents.

I'm wondering if you can tell us what's going on with that. Are we all okay now or what's your interaction with the French school as the Minister of Education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can clearly state that the board of CFSN and the Department of Education have improved their communication lines ever since there was a new chairperson and we have worked much closer with that organization. The chairperson and I sometimes meet now to discuss CFSN issues. To date, we have developed a closer working relationship.

It is obvious that... . How do I say this? What is that title? Let me read that quickly. CFSN has received funding through the (interpretation ends) Canada-Nunavut agreement (interpretation) and the funding is provided to them. It includes departmental funding as well from the Nunavut government. They also get funding from the federal government to provide specific programs. This is proceeding quite well. I can state that our relationship has improved significantly now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very good to hear. I want to go on to ask something under G-12 again. Mr. Enook raised some questions about the coalition. I'm wondering if you can tell us how the coalition reports back to the department

for the money that they get each year.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends)
Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They get funding through a contribution agreement. It clearly indicates what the reporting requirements are. They have to provide quarterly reports to us on the money they spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Just going down, I noticed as well that the National Arts Centre gets \$93,000. How is the National Arts Center involved with the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The National Arts Centre (interpretation) works with schools throughout Canada. It's the same case with us. This does not apply only to us. They also have a contribution agreement with different schools. Please let me know if you need more information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) What exactly is the \$93,000 that we contribute used

for? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Different communities utilize that funding. For instance, not just with us, they provide assistance to the communities. If it's okay with you, I will ask my deputy minister to provide more detailed information so that we can respond properly to her question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): It's totally fine with me. Mr. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We started working with the National Arts Centre a few years. I think it has been a very successful partnership with them. They have visited several communities across Nunavut and have done different types of initiatives, including music.

For example, at the high school, they had done fiddling. In the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, they had a symphony of fiddlers and then with the fiddlers group up here, so they were playing together. We were really happy to get it down to just a very slight delay in the technology.

Along with doing technology in different locations, they will actually fly to different communities. It will include airfare, transportation of instruments, and those types of things. As part of the contribution agreement, they give us a report back that shows where they have been and how many students that they have engaged with across the territory.

I'm sure we can provide that information through a letter because I think it's a very successful program. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that sounds wonderful. The only thing I could say is that perhaps you don't promote the good things in your department enough like things like that. I think they're good to share.

I also see Nunavut Arctic College in here for \$250,000. What is that for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question. We have often talked about inclusive education. That's the reason that Nunavut Arctic College is there. This will provide assistance if we're going to properly implement inclusive education. The NTEP students need to be aware of what we're planning to do in the future. It helps through there. We can see at Nunavut Arctic College, as I stated earlier, it will be a supplement to be used by the Teacher Education Program students on inclusive education so that they could be more recognized in their abilities and that money is used for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) I have no more list of names. Branch Summary. Education. K-12 School Operations. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to put forward a motion. I wish to move a motion to delete \$14,000 from the main estimates listed in the budget estimates on page G-7. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Please provide it. The motion is in order. Mr. Enook, do you have a translated copy of your motion? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, at this time, I don't have a translated copy. If we can take a break, I can provide it. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We will take a short break to translate and distribute the motion to all members.

>>Committee recessed at 17:36 and resumed at 18:01

Chairman (interpretation): All of you have a copy of the motion. (interpretation ends) Mr. Enook, for the record, please read your motion. Mr. Enook.

**Committee Motion 001 – 4(3):
Deletion of \$14,000 from the 2016-17 Main Estimates of the
Department of Education**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'll read it. Mr. Chairman, I move that \$14,000 in proposed grants and contributions funding for the "Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada" be deleted from the K-12 School Operations Branch of the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates of the

Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to procedures. Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any more comments because we already discussed it and the motion is clear. Thank you.

Chairman: Any other members wishing to speak to the motion? Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity and to ensure you recall, my colleagues, during the (interpretation ends) standing committee, (interpretation) I responded to that particular question by saying that we would no longer be using that fund. I also provided our reasoning for that change in the (interpretation ends) standing committee (interpretation) and I just wanted to clarify that statement as we have resumed this review. This is not the first time it has been presented. I just wanted to make that point, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Any other members want to speak to the motion? I wish to inform the committee that I have no more names on my list. Does the mover have any last reply? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My motion is quite clear, so I don't have a last reply.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) The debate is now closed. We will now vote on the motion. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed, please raise your hand. All those abstaining, please raise your hand. The motion is carried. The motion is defeated.

>> *Laughter*

The motion is carried. We will now take a 15-minute break.

>> *Committee recessed at 18:06 and resumed at 18:19*

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. On G-7. Branch Summary. Education. K-12 School Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted, as amended. \$173,080,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On G-8. Education. Branch Summary. Curriculum and School Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$15,430,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page G-9. Branch Summary. Education. Early Childhood Education. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$7,423,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Education. Branch Summary. Adult Learning and Educational Initiatives. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,443,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to page G-3. Department Summary. Education. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted, as amended. \$205,465,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Department of Education?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation) Closing comments. Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues for approving our budget and I do recognize that scrutinizing the expenditures is something that is very useful. I'm sure that it will be of great benefit to our students, schools, teachers and, of course, the parents. Thank you and have a good evening. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

(interpretation ends) Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Hickes.

Bill 13 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2016-2017 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Hon. George Hickes: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister, please introduce your officials. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me today Mr. Terry Audla, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and Mr. Tim Brown, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning.

Chairman: Welcome, Mr. Audla, as this is your first appearance in Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes, please proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. George Hickes: 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 2016-17 main estimates and business plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As I had mentioned, I have with me today from the Nunavut Housing Corporation Terry Audla, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Tim Brown, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning.

The GN funding for the Nunavut Housing Corporation for fiscal year 2016-17 will increase by \$12,321,000 from the 2015-16 main estimates. The increase includes:

- \$3,612,000 in supplementary funding to increase the utilities budget to cover water and electricity rate increases;
- \$660,000 to cover the net reduction in debt repayment to CMHC;
- \$4,542,000 to facilitate new staff housing units;
- \$3,386,000 to cover costs of new public housing units; and
- \$121,000 to cover the balance of the cost of 13 new positions that were created in fiscal 2014-15.

Mr. Chairman, with recent construction on 248 new public housing units, most of which were completed by December 2015, and an operating cost of approximately \$26,000 per year per unit, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will require increased funding to maintain and operate these units.

Water and sewage costs are the largest single expense for public housing units. With periodic increases in water and electricity rates, NHC must increase its utilities budget to properly maintain its housing portfolio.

In 2015-16, the Nunavut Housing Corporation received significant capital funding for new staff housing construction. For this reason, 2016-17 will see an increase in GN staff housing units with construction of 43 new units to be completed as well as the potential for a number of new units to be leased.

2014-15 saw the creation of 13 new NHC positions. These new positions are critical to ensuring that NHC has the capacity to maintain its growing housing portfolio and to move the corporation away from its dependence on casual employees. A slight increase is required to cover the balance of the costs of these new positions.

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 housing needs of Nunavummiut are met.

In 2016-17, we will be working closely with colleagues from other jurisdictions to lobby the federal government for increased funding for both capital and operating costs of social housing in Nunavut.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2016-17 main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members.

Chairman: Thank you. Be mindful of the interpreters. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good evening. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates and 2016-19 Business Plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The standing committee notes that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2016-17 operations and maintenance budget of \$196,177,000 has increased by approximately 6.7 percent since the introduction of its 2015-16 main estimates. The number of positions in the Nunavut Housing Corporation is 114. This is a decrease of seven positions from the 2015-16 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 May 13 of 2013, the Government of Nunavut's *Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2014-17 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2014-15 fiscal year was to "Establish [an] interdepartmental collaboration structure for the development of a multi-year Action Plan for the GN Comprehensive Long Term Housing and Homelessness Strategy."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that a company had been selected in April of 2015 through an RFP process to develop this action plan and that "The final blueprint document will be

developed in the spring of 2016 with tabling scheduled for fall 2016." The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling of this important item.

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 2015-16 ministerial letter of expectation to the chairperson of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's board of directors was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until October 30, 2015, almost seven months into the fiscal year. The standing committee looks forward to the minister's 2016-17 letter of expectation being tabled in the House in a timelier manner.

Last year, the standing committee recommended that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual reports account in detail for the activities and decisions of the board of directors, including its audit committee, the statutory mandate of which includes the responsibility to "ensure the critical and objective oversight of the Corporation's reporting of financial information and practices of strategic management and financial control."

The standing committee is pleased to note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recent annual report, which was tabled in the House on November 5 of 2015, included significantly more detail concerning board activities than in previous years.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates

that “Each Public Housing unit requires more than \$26,200 per year to operate and maintain.” This represents an increase of over 5.6 percent from the \$24,800 figure that was in the corporation’s 2015-18 business plan. It also indicates that “funding from CMHC for the social housing inventory, which was transferred to the Corporation in 1996, is declining and will terminate completely in 2037.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s budget for utilities in the 2016-17 fiscal year is \$100,353,000, which represents an increase of 16.6 percent over the past two years. Approximately \$7.5 million in supplementary funding for the Nunavut Housing Corporation was approved by the Legislative Assembly during the fall 2015 sitting to “address increases in water rates and public housing water and heating fuel usage.”

During last year’s Committee of the Whole consideration of the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2015-16 main estimates, questions were asked concerning the government’s “pay for power” program, which is intended to “quantify utility usage” and “reduce energy consumption.” This initiative has been jointly led by the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Energy Secretariat of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The standing committee recommends that a detailed update on the status of this initiative be included as part of the comprehensive report on the Energy Secretariat’s activities that has been requested to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in the near future.

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 of 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, indicates that the corporation’s, and I quote, “\$27 million in rental and tenant damage arrears at the end of 2014-2015, represent a formidable challenge in terms of front line capacity in improving collection rates. Arrears accumulated by public housing tenants and homeownership program clients threaten the NHC’s ability to continue to support Nunavummiut in having a safe, suitable and affordable home. The over \$27 million in rental arrears currently owed to the NHC could pay for the construction of almost 60 new public housing units.”

The standing committee is pleased to note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that it has “established a working group, including LHO representatives, to review and develop an arrears reduction strategy. The overall 2014/15 collection rate was 88.38%; with 10 communities achieving a collection rate of 97% or higher.”

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. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2014-17 business plan indicated that one of its goals was to “Monitor [the] impact of

changes made to the public housing rent scale and identify how the new rent scale software can assist the NHC in demonstrating the social, economic and cultural impacts of housing issues across Nunavut.”

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2015-18 business plan indicated that it is “producing monthly reporting from the new rent scale software, as well as certain key statistics on a quarterly basis.” The standing committee recognizes the importance of having comprehensive information and evidence with which to address housing issues faced by Nunavut and that a key goal of reforming the public housing rent scale has been to remove disincentives to employment.

The standing committee encourages the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s next annual report to account in detail for the extent to which changes in the public housing rent scale have removed disincentives to employment.

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. 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 fully review the range of incentives and disincentives that could be applied to this area within the context of the government’s Staff Housing Policy.

The 2015-16 ministerial letter of expectation to the chairperson of the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s board of directors provides that the corporation is expected to provide a “yearly comprehensive report on all procurement, contracting and leasing activities.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2012-13 annual report on contracting and procurement activities was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 20 of 2014. However, its 2013-14 and 2014-15 annual reports have not yet been tabled.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s budget for its homeownership programs is funded through its annual capital estimates. The corporation’s 2016-17 capital estimates, which were approved by the Legislative Assembly during its fall 2015 sitting, included a total of \$4,616,000 in funding for homeownership programs. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2016-17 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2016-17 fiscal year is to “Begin to implement proposed changes to...home ownership programs resulting from the Blueprint for Action.”

As part of its consideration of the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2014-15 main estimates and business plan, the standing committee recommended that the corporation review its current residency requirements for its homeownership programs so as to achieve greater consistency with other territorial programs and entitlements. This recommendation was repeated in respect to the corporation’s 2015-16 main estimates.

For example, individuals are required by law to have been residents of the

territory for a consecutive period of at least 12 months prior to being eligible to vote in a general election. This requirement also applies to voting in the upcoming territory-wide plebiscite concerning the sale of municipal lands.

However, there is currently no minimum residency requirement in place with respect to the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program. This results in a fundamentally unfair situation where an individual may not have lived in the territory for a sufficient length of time to vote in a general election or in the upcoming land plebiscite, but can qualify to receive significant financial assistance from the government under this program.

Mr. Chairman, it is not unreasonable to expect individuals to have lived in the territory for at least one year prior to being eligible to receive significant financial support under the government's homeownership programs. The standing committee urges the new minister to ensure that all of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs require applicants to have lived in the territory for at least one year prior to being eligible for consideration.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2016-17 Main Estimates and 2016-19 Business Plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The floor is now open for general comments. 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. (interpretation) Page L-3. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister and staff. The Nunavut Housing Corporation selected the private company, Outcrop Nunavut, to develop a blueprint for action to implement NHC's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy. What were the results of the engagement sessions that were held during the fall of 2015? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The blueprint for action document itself and the strategy behind it has been an ongoing endeavour for a period of time now. There have been some preliminary meetings with stakeholders and let's just say that it's being ramped up and sped up a lot more to attempt to meet our deadline of this upcoming fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in May of 2013, the action plan to implement the strategy is not expected to be tabled until the fall of 2016, three and a half years after the completion of the strategy. Will the

strategy itself need to be updated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, I would say not likely, but at the same time, during our analysis, stakeholder meetings, and consultations with the public, it is a possibility, but the blueprint for action are actionable tasks that we can use to meet the strategy. The action plan itself will dictate how we move forward with dealing with housing issues across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that, the strategy in itself... . We all know that there's a shortage of housing in Nunavut and we're always looking for homeless shelters. Is there an indication in the strategy that there should be one in any community or every community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to homeless shelters, it's usually funded through societies that can be created in any community. We will work with LHOs to identify a need and to see if there's a possibility of partnering up or helping to provide supports to societies that are interested in establishing homelessness shelters in their communities. That being said, again it goes back to the blueprint for action on how we can go about meeting the needs.

We're all very much aware that there is an issue of people, not just having the hidden homeless, the couch surfers, and the people who are staying with family and friends, creating overcrowding situations. Our whole initiative behind this action plan is to provide actionable items so that we can deal with some of these issues in a concentrated effort. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know that we do have people who are living on couches in almost every community. That should indicate that we should have a shelter like that.

In the smaller communities, they seem to have a hard time getting a society going. Can the housing board become a society as such as a society for homelessness? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for keeping light on this issue. In an ideal scenario, I think we would like to provide Nunavummiut with housing so that we don't have to deal with homeless shelters. That being said, I think LHOs could provide some support to a society in the creation of a society, but I wouldn't want to put that pressure and additional duties and potential for liabilities on a local housing organization. That's not the role they play.

If community members have an identified need within their community

where they have the impetus to create a society and can work with other partnering organizations, including the Nunavut Housing Corporation, then we can attempt to set something like that up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer. What is your approximate cost of implementing the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the amount of units, over 3,000 units across the territory that we feel we're in a deficit, if I recall correctly, the last number I looked at was approximately \$1.6 billion.

My apologies, Mr. Chairman. If I can add to that, that is the 20-year investment. To actually eliminate overcrowding and keep pace with population growth, we're looking at \$2.5 billion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2016-19 business plan indicates that the corporation has "continued to work closely with the other two Territories to develop a Northern Business Case for Federal Investments in Housing." As of today, what is the status of this business case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that question. I just had a conference call on Friday during the storm. I came into the office and I had a conference call with both NWT and Yukon. The business case has been finalized. It's in the process of being provided to the federal government to assist us all in allocating for additional funding and stable funding. It is available on the website for all members to look at. It's at northernhousing.ca. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood you, is there a light at the end of the tunnel for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there is and I don't think it's a train.

I'm very optimistic with the upcoming federal budget on March 22. I think myself and my territorial counterparts have made a very solid argument of investing in housing in the north and how it impacts not only nation-building, but it impacts the economy all across the country. I think we have made a very sound argument and I'm optimistically looking forward to the March 22 budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to hear a good response. My last question will be: when will you table the northern business case for federal investments in housing in the Legislative Assembly? That will be my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It is available publicly like on the website that I just stated, northernhousing.ca, but if the committee wishes me to table it, I can commit to tabling it before the end of this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on L-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Following the list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Having not spoken for a while, my voice seems hoarse.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had several questions earlier, but my in-law has quite speedily raised the issues. I understand the responses, so I wonder if I can ask questions on the opening comments. Yes, within the opening comments, I mistakenly referred to a figure simply due to not having any financial background. I tend to be confused when I am trying to decipher the financial figures.

Within page 2 of the Inuktitut version of the opening comments, you alluded to 248 new units that were quoted as being constructed. The units were allocated for public housing units. I would like to understand if these 248 units are

standalone units or multiplexes. Are the units constructed here in Nunavut multiplexes in that amount? I would like to get that clarified first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) May I remind all members to have your cellphones on silent mode. Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the years, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has learned a number of lessons with regard to building single family dwellings and multiplex units. For the efficiencies of economy to scale to build as many units as we can to address the dire need of housing across the territory, we have elected to be building multiplex units and we will continue to do so for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): I have a brief question. Thank you. In addition, you seem to be indicating that these units are largely completed within the 2015-16 year, as the wording states that units are mostly complete.

I want to ask about this other financial amount under operations and maintenance totalling \$26,000, which seems insignificant. What is the purpose of this fund or is this part of costs towards these multiplexes? I would like to know the intent behind this fund. Can you clarify that for me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Member Shooyook, for bringing a highlight to the cost it takes to maintain a public housing unit in Nunavut. It's an ongoing battle that we have with the amount of units that we have, over 70 percent of which were built prior to 1999 with ever-increasing maintenance costs. Utilities costs make up the bulk of that \$26,000 per year, that is, water, sewer, heating fuel, and electricity. Those costs are increasing year by year, as members saw from our supplementary appropriation last year of \$3.6 million to address the immediate need and an increase in this year's budget to address ongoing increases in utilities.

It's something that I'm very much aware of and I had some questions today under my other hat of Qulliq Energy of what are we doing to maintain more efficient models of construction. I'm very proud to say that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has the constructions that we're doing right now that are rated at about 83 percent efficiency.

What that means in layman's terms or simple terms is that other than going to standalone, off-grid power generation, we're at a very efficient construction model. We're utilizing as many positive technologies that are available to have energy-efficient and low-consumption units that we're building right now. I don't know how fast that's going to have an impact on that \$26,000 per year as other utility costs do continue to increase. It seems to be offsetting what measures we're taking.

It's something that we have addressed not only amongst ourselves and with the government but also with some of our

other funding partners. With the ever-decreasing CMHC dollars, it's something that we're very much aware of and I'm making sure that we're getting that message out there that this is another area where we need to focus some assistance on.

It's fantastic when we get money to build new units across the territory, but at the same time, it puts strain on the Nunavut Housing Corporation and, in turn, on the Government of Nunavut to provide operations and maintenance costs for those units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for clarifying that. Just get to back to the \$26,000 briefly, is this \$26,000 sufficient for the operations and maintenance of a unit? Prices are increasing for the operation of a unit. Can you tell me when there will be an increase to this \$26,000 or if it will stay the same for some time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As these expenses are somewhat out of our control, I can't answer that completely or definitely. I do know, I believe it was as little as two years ago, the average was \$24,000 per unit and now we're at \$26,000 per unit, so it is trending up. With regard to if that's sufficient or not, it's something that we budget for and we work very hard to stay within those budget parameters, but as what had happened last year, we were forced to come to this

legislature to request a supplementary appropriation to help us meet that need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Following the list of names, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question is in relation to Habitat Housing. I enjoy volunteering for builds here, but we haven't seen any more builds since 2013. It is a very good program of assisting new homeowners with volunteer labour.

One of their struggles was that they couldn't get lots. If they can't get lots here, can you, perhaps, lobby them to build in another community? These people end up with real homeownership and it's a lot of pride to own your own home. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member may have been party to some meetings or something, it sounds like. Habitat for Humanity is a fantastic program that has been able to provide homeownership to people over the years, specifically here in Iqaluit. I have been informed by my CEO, Mr. Audla, that there have been recent discussions with Habitat for Humanity of doing just that, exploring opportunities in other communities to identify Habitat for Humanity housing options. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik: Good. I look forward to hearing more about it. I will gladly volunteer again. It's a lot of fun. It's very rewarding assisting fellow homeowners.

The other question I have is, during my travels into other communities, I often stay with family and they're homeowners too, but they don't have the luxury of contractors to maintain their homes. I have lobbied every new Minister of Housing to start a training program just to maintain a home like maintaining home furnaces and using our educational facilities when they're not in use so that these homeowners can learn to maintain their homes. When they can't afford their own homes, they end up in public housing.

I look forward to plans from the housing corporation to start doing these training programs where there are no contractors in the Nunavut communities. Can the minister, perhaps, look into that further and come up with a plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member brings up a very valid point. There is a continual challenge in some communities of having contractors available to do some of the work. Some of the seasonal work or minor maintenance on some of the infrastructure within their home probably could be done by the homeowner with some minor training. From what I understand, that is a topic

that has been brought up through the blueprint for action discussions.

I do know, through our home repair program, we have taken a step of adding contractor travel outside of the grant amount to be able to bring contractors in to assist homeowners with the repair programs that they get through the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It's something that I'll take under consideration to see if there is some way we can partner with other stakeholders to see if something like that is feasible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We went to tour the housing units that were recently built. I think it was last fall. We looked at the inside, but the stoves that they were using were older models and they use more electricity. I want that looked into further because it increases the energy costs. The newer model lighting fixtures don't use much energy and we still don't utilize them enough. I would like the housing corporation to look further into it because they can cut down the costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Anytime somebody brings up energy efficiency and potential for alternative energy, it piques my interest, as it's near and dear to my beliefs. It's something that I know we've had discussions or preliminary ones that I've had with the Nunavut Housing Corporation officials.

Like the member stated, all new construction and major retrofits do use LED lighting to reduce energy costs. We're looking at exploring a number of different methods to help alleviate stresses on our utility consumption, so it's something that I'm always taking into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we do have a lot of public housing units throughout our territory and LED lighting is a very good cost saver for any home, particularly for public housing where we are spending public dollars. Are there any plans from the corporation to convert to LED housing on existing stock or older stock, which is using the bulk of the O&M budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had mentioned, I'm looking at exploring all different ways of decreasing energy consumption. It's not as simple as just changing light bulbs in most units. They're set up with fluorescent lighting systems and different ballasts and older technologies that would have to be replaced with newer technologies.

With a lot of the discussions on climate change, affordable energy, and clean energy, energy efficiency is something that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to look for assistance on

bringing in different programs that can help alleviate energy consumption.

To directly answer the member's question, as I stated earlier, I'm always looking for different opportunities to help alleviate stresses on energy consumption, so yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Following the list of names, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me first welcome the minister, especially Mr. Audla. Welcome. We expect to form a good working relationship with you.

I have a question on the minister's opening comments and it's probably just for clarification. Let me preface that with a comment, Mr. Minister, related to the statements earlier today about the new lighting project, which is bright and energy efficient. You stated that it is a pilot project in Iqaluit that will work its way into the other communities.

I wanted to inform you that Mr. Shooyook's constituency as well as my constituency should be the priority due to dark season we experience in the High Arctic. I believe that our four communities experience the most darkness for the longest periods in the winter. We don't see the sun for several months during the dark season. I would ask that the department consider the communities that experience the greatest length of darkness when you are considering the transfer of the project outside of Iqaluit. That should be the first consideration.

I wish to get further clarification on this matter within the opening comments. I wanted to get clarification on "\$660,000 to cover the net reduction in debt repayment..." I wanted to get some reasoning behind the language used in this sentence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that question. As we're all aware and as I alluded to in an earlier response, CMHC funding is decreasing. Every year, we get less and less funding. That is the amount under CMHC that we got, not clawed back, that's not the right term, but decreased funding for this fiscal year. That funding will sunset in 2037 to a zero balance, so it's going to keep steadily going down.

You may recall, during this appropriation, there is that \$660,000 that is being contributed now by the Government of Nunavut to offset because the need isn't going down, but the money we're receiving from CMHC is going down. That is another aspect of my negotiations and through the other territorial negotiations through CMHC to help to see and identify areas where we can somehow offset that decreasing amount over a period of time.

Basically, we're getting a little over \$14 million right now and by 2037, we will get zero. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. Also in your opening

comments, you mentioned operating costs of \$26,000 per year per housing unit and that energy, water and sewage, and other costs go up. What do you base your decisions on for budget estimates for how much you're going to be spending? What do you base your decisions on when some of these costs suddenly go up? Take municipalities, for example, I believe they have some discretionary leeway within certain rules. How do you try to determine this type of uncertainty? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The most accurate numbers that we have are historical costs. When we take our costs that occurred last year and divide them by the amount of units we've got, that's what we base our numbers on.

Now, there have been some increases in some municipalities in water and sewer which caused the need to go back for that \$3.6 million last year and increase our budget in that category for this year.

Ongoing communication with Community and Government Services and with the communities themselves to help address and do the best we can, as our tenants use the services and use the utilities and we have to pay for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. As this is not written in a document, Mr. Chairman, if you allow me to ask a

question. We once had the former minister of the housing corporation at the witness table during our deliberations on housing last fall, I believe. The discussion focused primarily on the agreement between the housing corporation and the local housing organizations. It was mentioned more than once that they're doing a review on this agreement. Mr. Chairman, if you allow me to ask the question, when will this review be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That review is ongoing. It's trying to work with every different LHO and come to a core agreement to still have controls and duties at the community level, which is what we fund them for. To come to a fair funding model, to make sure that we're doing the job properly, right now, we're looking at completing most of the negotiations by the fall of this year and having an agreement finalized by 2017. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You said that you are negotiating at this point. We have the boards of LHOs and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Which of the directors of each local board is doing the negotiating? Do they appoint somebody independent from the housing corporation or the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Through direction from the Nunavut Housing Corporation board, the staff at NHC at the district level and headquarters are working with LHOs to come to identifying areas where we can be of more assistance, specifically with some of the IT needs, HR needs, and legal ramifications. We're making sure that there are some core structures to these management agreements to alleviate a lot of unnecessary stresses. We want to make sure that we're doing this the right way the first time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, you have heard me on more than one occasion in the House and you have heard my colleagues about the agreement, which seems to be developed in favour of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It seems like the local housing authorities don't have any power at all and we have said that in this House. At the end of the day, no matter what is decided, it always has to be approved by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in virtually every aspect.

With your present negotiations, there's the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but what about the boards of the local housing authorities? Who represents them? Do they have an entity or do they delegate someone to be involved in the negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all LHOs, whether they be authorities or associations, a lot of that discussion happens with the LHO manager. That's where you get the community representation. Albeit, however it's set up, the LHO still has representation across the territory.

I would just like to add onto that, that the LHOs do have a fair bit of autonomy as well. We've had some challenges in the past where it has been necessary to take the steps of going into an authority basis. It's not something that is taken lightly. I have met with a number of different boards already and I don't envy their jobs sometimes. The challenge they have of living and working in a community and making some of the tough decisions that they have to make are not easy.

I hear lots of stories, as I'm sure you guys all do from your constituents. There are a lot of heartbreaking stories out there. We want to help everyone in the best manner that we can and wherever possible, we try to leave that autonomy with the LHO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm referring back to a comment made by the minister regarding the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation. They say that there is going to be a gradual decrease with a sunset clause in 2037. Once we have reached that date, they likely won't be providing any more money.

I would like to ask the minister if he has had an opportunity to meet with the Minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation about this issue and the fact that it is of a great concern to Nunavut. Have you had this opportunity yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Social Housing Agreement with CMHC is very high on our concern list, if you want to call it that. I haven't had an opportunity to meet with Minister Duclos himself, but I have met with his staff in Ottawa. It was a number of issues, ideas, concerns, and requests that was definitely very close to the top of the list because it is an ever-increasing concern. It's going to become more of a concern year by year for the next 20 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask questions to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. It is not covered in your opening comments, but they build rental housing units in the communities and we talk about affordable and cost-effective housing. That is one of the priorities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

My question is in regard to the housing units that are sent to the communities for

construction. Usually, architectural drawings are followed to construct the houses. Can these blueprints be adapted so that the constructed units are not as cold? I'm sure that's factored in when you're doing your architectural drawings. My question is: are they adapted to the north? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when we design new construction, it's all to current building and fire codes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think the minister quite understood my question. Is it possible to build houses that are adapted to the north because it's colder up here?

The Nunavut Housing Corporation usually constructs five-plexes and I'm sure it's Nunavut-wide. Unfortunately, these units suffer from the lack of circulation in addition to condensation occurring in winter. That causes mould after only a few years. It's caused by the season cycles of dryness in summer and then humidity caused by condensation in winter.

My question is if blueprints can factor in for circulation and condensation so that northern housing construction results in less condensation and less mould build-

up. I hope that is clearer, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member brings up a very valid point that we're constructing these units in the Arctic. In most southern jurisdictions, the ventilation system used in construction is a little...I don't know. I call them whirlybirds because they've got a vent on the top of the house that keeps air circulating throughout the house. Due to our climate, we're unable to use that type of mitigation measure, so we use air exchange units in all of our new construction.

There have been examples in the past where it has been a challenge to find local contractors or maintenance people with the expertise to be able to maintain them. Some tenants don't report when they're shut off. I heard even as recently as one of the community tours where somebody brought the topic forward that some people shut them off because they use power and power is so expensive. I would deter that strenuously for the minute cost that it costs to run those air exchange units and for the amount of damage it can do by not having them on, they're there for a reason.

Through our health and safety, there has been some training in mould and mould-training kits have been sent to some of the district offices. I would just like to re-emphasize and part of our campaign in tenant engagement is to highlight the importance of keeping those air exchange units in good working order and to immediately report if there's any malfunction with them so that the local

maintenance staff can address the issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also wish to ask about this matter related to heating systems as they currently use two distinctly different systems. One is the forced air heater that sucks in air from the outside and heats it to disseminate the heat to the unit while the other uses liquid to heat the home by cycling the hot liquid. We are aware that the boiler systems are more energy efficient, which I am sure is understood by the corporation. I would like to know which system has been found to be more energy efficient, if it has been researched. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I promised Mr. Audla that I would defer at least a couple of questions to him today, so I'll ask Mr. Audla to respond to that if the Chairman may allow. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I held meetings with the managers for the housing associations in the Baffin region. This was one of the questions raised about the efficiency of our heating systems and the problems they face and whether boilers or forced air heating systems are more efficient. It seems obvious that the majority prefer the forced air heating system, as the costs to repair and replace the systems is the most cost-effective and their

maintenance workers are more familiar with the forced air systems.

We are currently reviewing the different jurisdictions, such as the NWT that uses forced air heating systems due to the reason that they can't repair the boiler systems. Due to that same reason, we can take into consideration the needs based on the costs as it seems obvious that savings can be realized. We also understood the preference of the managers in the Baffin region as forced air heating systems are easier for them. We will still be looking into this matter. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. I would like to remind members that we're not talking about capital estimates; we're on main estimates. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the questions I wanted to ask have already been asked, so I'll leave it at this time. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Following the list of names, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening comments, I again raised the issue of residency requirements for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's down-payment assistance program. I have raised this issue on a number of occasions not only here but in my committee. I'm going to ask two simple questions on the matter and hopefully we can get it clarified today and it doesn't show up in any future

opening comments.

As of today, people have to live in Nunavut for at least one year before being eligible to vote in general elections, which is the same for municipal elections in our communities, and that's fair. Can the minister explain how it is fair for people to be eligible for the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program without a similar residency requirement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very familiar with the member bringing forward this issue and I may have even raised it myself a time or two over the last couple of years.

One thing I learned when I took over this portfolio was that - not so much learned, but maybe identified in a little bit different viewpoint - at the end of the day, we're trying to promote homeownership in the territory. We have a budget on an annual basis allocated to this need and we do have other criteria. We have to be the age of majority and not have rental arrears with an LHO or with NHC.

Until such time as our budget is fully taxed, it's something that I'm going to remain very cognizant of if it comes to a point where we've got budget concerns with what we have allocated to promote homeownership. We're not looking at making any immediate changes to it. I don't have the exact number with me right now, but it's a very small amount, if any, of new residents that come into Nunavut and apply for this funding.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate the fact that the housing corporation is trying to promote homeownership in the territory, but this residency requirement kind of bugs me in a way. I'm just wondering: will the minister at least commit to looking into this a little further and get back to us at a later date and give us clear and definite reasons why it has to be this way, without a residency requirement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I don't even have to commit to this because this will be part of the analysis when we're doing our blueprint for action. This will be one of the topics that come up on promoting homeownership and the housing continuum, alleviating pressure on staff housing and alleviating pressure on public housing, the ultimate goal being putting people in that are fiscally able to do so to put into private homeownership opportunities. With the blueprint for action, I will kind of commit on my behalf that this will be explored. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Hickes, when you're presenting your first budget. Welcome, gentlemen, your officials.

(interpretation) To start, I would like clarification on the fund of \$26,200,

which is an annual total of operations of one unit. That is at least what we have heard. I wonder if this fund can be further broken down as to what expenses are allocated into this fund. Perhaps if you just provided a rough estimate of costs, such as monthly costs over a 12-month period, what the actual expenditures are under this operation fund. What are the monthly costs that total slightly over \$26,200?

(interpretation ends) I don't know if he has that level of detail, (interpretation) but if he does, I would like that explanation first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have exact numbers, but I can give the member generally what the percentages are that those costs entail. Approximately one-third is water and sewer. Another one-third is other utilities; heat, electricity. There are also taxes for the property on there. It's an average of costs associated with maintaining units across the territory. Like I had mentioned earlier, over 70 percent of our stock was built prior to 1999. Some units do take more maintenance costs than others. This is an average cost per unit; some are less and some are more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to voice my support to the housing corporation as well as the other items my colleagues mentioned. Perhaps we can look at the energy ratings or hydroelectric options

or consider technologies that are more energy efficient. I wonder if more research can be conducted, especially any method that can result in savings over our current expenditures. Even though that is the case, there was another area I wanted to ask a question about. It is with respect to the \$26,200 (interpretation ends) that is for public housing. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about for staff housing? Is it the same amount? For government staff housing, does it cost that much to maintain each unit as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It does vary with staff housing. It's dependent upon the lease arrangements that are made to get those units. Some tenants are responsible for water and sewer, as an example, or heating fuel or electricity, so it does vary according to the lease arrangement.

That being said and I'm just going by memory, so I'll stand to be corrected. It's approximately about \$14,000 a month. It's the number that I recall previously, but it's something I will confirm and I will confirm with the member, but if I recall correctly, it's

about \$14,000 per unit per year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I may use my calculator, on page 10 of your business plan, if I average it out, the lease for staff housing rental as well as operations, if I total that amount and divide it by the number of units, 1,480 into about 36,000, is there a better, accurate figure or am I just getting my math wrong? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, there are some variances depending upon how the lease is structured. At the same time, there is revenue offset from staff housing that people pay rents. That would offset some of those expenses. That money goes to the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has public housing and the government has staff housing. I would like to know how many people are on the waiting list for public housing and staff housing today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you. To start off with public housing, there is an estimated 1,862 families across the territory, which would entail needing

372 new five-plex buildings to accommodate everyone on the current needs list for public housing. I'm just gathering the documents on staff housing. Just a moment, please.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies for the delay. It's a kind of a floating amount depending upon how many competitions are out and how many are being filled. I can give a rough estimate of approximately about 1,300 staff housing units are needed to meet the demand across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. NHC's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy states, "Staff housing should provide new employees who move into market communities with a home until they become settled. These employees should be encouraged to move into the private sector or discouraged from remaining in staff housing..." I would like to ask the minister what specific options are currently being considered to encourage employees to move out of staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It's not an easy one to answer.

There are ongoing discussions. Do we increase our housing subsidy for GN employees from the 400 to a higher amount? Do we increase staff housing rents to put more pressure on our staff to go into private rental markets or into

homeownership opportunities? The blueprint for action again will address a lot of these concerns and put action options behind the issue itself. Through negotiation and through consultation with our stakeholders and with members of the public, we will identify all available options and we will be exploring.

I know that a number of years ago, there was an attempt to increase staff housing rates. I believe it was across the territory, so it was a hindrance in a lot of communities and it was scaled back. From personal experience, it worked for me. I ended up having to buy a house because my rent kept getting higher and higher.

Once we identify more options through consultation with our stakeholders and members of the public, we will explore all options on how to do it as less dramatic as possible. With the capacity issues we have overall in this government, we don't want to deter employability in Nunavut. We've got to really balance how we go about enforcing or engaging with our employees on how to move them out of the staff housing into the other aspects of the housing continuum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. I would also like to ask him: as the Minister responsible for NHC, what changes to the Staff Housing Policy do you support making in addition to what you have already discussed earlier? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To me, it's almost a hypothetical question, but without knowledge, without an analysis of identifying the pros and cons of taking different actions, at this time, I wouldn't be comfortable bringing forward any specific outcomes until we do a full analysis and I'm able to explore all options and potential ramifications of those decisions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. If he's willing to answer hypothetical questions, maybe he will indulge me in what he thinks would happen if there was no Staff Housing Policy and public housing and staff housing were treated the same. What would happen in that scenario? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. May I remind members that I will make a ruling if it's a hypothetical question. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right off the bat, it would totally change all public housing and the Staff Housing Policy itself. For public housing, you're not even eligible unless you have been in the community for a period of time. To look at hiring or importing professionals and skilled employees for the Government of Nunavut, I don't think Minister Peterson would be too fond of me if I adapted the policy to that extreme. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I have one final question for today and it's on rent scale reform. As was pointed out, the rent scale was reformed to remove disincentives to employment. I would like to see: to what extent is the new public housing rent scale having an impact? Maybe he has discussed it with the Minister of Family Services. Are there more people actually working now with this new policy reform? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it for me. Thanks.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll preface the response. I'll ask Mr. Audla to give a detailed response on it.

I will preface it that I don't personally have the statistics right now of what kind of impact it is having on the employability. In layman's terms, if I'm working, I'm bringing more money into the household, and I have more disposable income for that household at the end of the month after paying my rent, even if it does increase, to me, it is not a deterrent to employability. You've got more disposable income for your family.

If the Chairman would allow, I would like Mr. Audla to provide a detailed response. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on my briefings as to the public housing rent scale having been reviewed

and revised in February of 2014, the question that the member had asked was specifically addressed in the sense that the changes that were made was to keep in mind that each unit will be based on two primary tenants.

If their income is less than \$22,000, they would pay a minimum rent of \$60 per month. Any income that is above \$22,000 to \$40,000 will be 20 percent of annual income. Anything above \$40,000 to a maximum of \$80,000, the rent increase will be 25 percent of annual income. Lastly, anything above \$80,000 will be 30 percent of annual income. When you look at the minimum rent threshold based on minimum wage, it's going to have to be reviewed based on the recent change to the minimum wage.

The aspects of the rent scale that have remained the same are student deductions; full-time students remain rent-free; the cost of living allowance in each community has their own cost of living allowance reducing the monthly rent charged; under accommodation allowance when it's overcrowded in a sense, which reduces the rent by \$20 per month for each bedroom the unit is short; and the national occupancy standards are used as well. The unit condition rating reduces rent by \$10 for every percent point a unit is below the community average when it comes to the actual condition of that unit.

I had asked previously as well when I first came in newly hired as the president and CEO whether public housing rent would be a disincentive for employment and the response I got back is that that's not the case. When you are employed, a certain percentage is deducted from your salary to a point where it's very

manageable. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask some questions about the blueprint for action. I know the strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in May of 2013 and the action plan, I think, is expected to be tabled in the fall of 2016. Is this still so? Is this still to stand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is still the plan. That being said, there is still a lot of work to do. There's a very aggressive schedule over the summer to finalize that report so that we can complete it for the fall. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since you've tabled the strategy, that was a while ago now, by the time you table the action plan, will it mean that you would have to update the strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I stated earlier, the strategy itself was created with the intent of having actionable items behind it. The action plan may identify some modifications that may need to be made to the strategy, but I don't anticipate so.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In developing the blueprint for action, the Nunavut Housing Corporation selected a private company, Outcrop Nunavut, to develop this blueprint for action. Can you tell us, when you went around to the different communities last fall of 2015, what kind of reaction and feedback did you get from the people that were consulted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I stated earlier, I was asked that question already as well, but basically, there was some initial discussions with stakeholders. There are ongoing consultations to be done throughout the summer. Right now, the process has been very open. Stakeholders have been engaged to identify how we're going to move forward with the creation of this action plan in a collaborative method with as much consultation as needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you did your consultations, was it the usual groups that are consulted like the hamlets and those kinds of people in the communities? Can you elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the delay on the member's question.

A similar question was asked earlier. Just to clarify, there have been stakeholder consultations and meetings to date. We're still going forward with further public consultations more at the community level. The details are still being ironed out with Outcrop on how exactly that is going to take place. We do have a schedule that we're aggressively following to meet the target date of this fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: One of the things right here is called the Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy. From what I understand, Family Services currently holds the homelessness responsibility. How have you dealt with this when you have homelessness in your strategy but it really belongs to another department? How have you dealt with that and what kinds of consultations have you done with the Department of Family Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to first of all clarify a little bit further with one of the previous responses. When I mean community level, it's more of a regional level. There will be input requested from other stakeholders at the community level if they can provide input.

With regard to addressing homelessness, absolute homelessness versus

overcrowding situations, they're two different things. As I'm sure the member is very much aware, when Family Services put through their absolute homeless number, it differed quite substantially from the original number that was put forward. Again, I don't recall exactly, but I think it was about three years ago, it was 1,200. There is still some differentiation with regard to the actual description.

Working with Family Services and with other departments, again this will be part of the consultation process through the blueprint for action so that we can put action items behind some of the issues as they come forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about affordable housing, in your business plan, it says, "Work with NTI to address affordable housing needs in Nunavut in accordance with Aajiqatigiinniq." Can you explain to us exactly how you're working with NTI to address affordable housing? Are the other parties contributing financially to this as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. There are ongoing discussions of business case and lobbying similar to the Ten-year Inuit Housing Strategy that NHC and NTI worked collaboratively on in 2004. With regard to current ongoing discussions with NTI, I would ask Mr.

Audla to provide a more detailed response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been in discussions with NTI on our engagement with them on developing the blueprint for action. We went through the detailed calendar schedule with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We're hoping that they will be involved in the engagement process as we go through the summer, which is going to be quite extensive. We're quite confident that participation from NTI will be at a high level and we're hoping that that will continue. At the same time, they haven't necessarily identified any funds toward this.

At the end of the process, we're hoping that we would look at the actual implementation and what it would cost for implementing a lot of the blueprint for action once it has been brought forward. We're hoping that we would have that type of detailed information for you once the engagement sessions have concluded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. In bringing the blueprint for action forward, you talked about having more detail. At this point in time, do you have an idea of how much this is going to cost? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, that question was asked earlier. If we look at what our

current needs are across the territory for housing, it's estimated at \$2.56 billion to address all of our housing needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You say that you are going to be doing this throughout the summer months, if I understood you correctly. It's kind of an iffy thing to be doing work through the summer months and maybe this is addressed too. Can you explain why you have chosen that time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main reasoning is we're looking at engaging in April, May, and June. When we say summer, it's early summer/late spring, I guess you could say, which would give us and our partners in this time over the summer months to finalize the report to meet our deadline of the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I would like to go on to something else. I want to talk about the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Long-term Inuit Employment Plan. In your business plan, it says that "Several beneficiaries have been offered mentoring..." Maybe we can start off with how many beneficiaries were offered mentoring, what current positions they hold now, and what they hope to become after the mentoring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that I brought up when I got the portfolio was I went through a mentorship program as well of identifying staff with potential to move up. We're always in discussions with our LHOs from across the territory for identifying staff from within the LHO organizations that have shown established skills and established work habits to look at bringing in them over into Nunavut Housing into the regional offices because they have a background in housing from the grassroots level, from the community level.

With regard to how many beneficiaries we've got in the training program right now, I believe it's three. I met one of them working in the Baker Lake office when I was there earlier in the winter. She is part of the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program, if I recall correctly. I was meeting with her, my apologies, in the Arviat office. She is very excited and the staff is extremely impressed with how she is progressing through. I believe it's three that are in a formal mentorship type process right now, if that answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many more do you think you're going to be mentoring over the next couple of years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As many as possible and I don't mean that lightly. With the training dollars that have been allocated to the Government of Nunavut through the legal settlement, through career development opportunities, through EIA, I'm in a very constant mode of trying to identify funds so that we can identify people from within our organization and from outside the organization that show the initiative and the desire to work at the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The atmosphere of working in that office, every time I go in there, I leave refreshed and recharged. There are a lot of really good people working in there with a lot of desire to improve the housing situation across the whole territory. To me, it seems like it would be a pretty fun place to work. If anyone is listening out there who is looking for jobs and opportunities, I would encourage them to explore opportunities through the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I would like to go to a different topic and that's LHO arrears. That has always been a topic that is a little complex. In your business plan, you talk about implementing LHO deficit recovery plans. Can you talk a little bit about what a deficit recovery plan would look like? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: That was a question that was already asked by one of the committee colleagues, but if the minister wants to

answer again. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever an LHO is in a deficit position, we work very hard with them to address any deficiencies, to maximize the effectiveness of the dollars that they do have. At the same time, we've got to be very cognizant of how aggressive that deficit recovery is. We don't want it to impact the residents of the housing that the LHO is responsible for maintaining. It's a delicate balance, but we work very closely through the regional offices to assist LHOs in any deficit recovery, big or small. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I'm going through the business plan and what interests me is what I'm asking. I guess we all have the same interest; we want to know about the same thing.

The other thing that I did want to talk about and maybe somebody has asked it is you have various programs here like Nunavut down-payment assistance. Mr. Rumbolt was talking about some of his frustrations with that. In most of them, do you have the same kind of criteria to access these programs? Are they all very different from one another? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In general, there are a lot of similarities. I would like to say that it depends on the level of funding as well. Some are prioritized based on financial. Some are prioritized on base of need. There are emergency repair programs.

There are senior maintenance programs. There are home repair programs. A lot of them are very similar. Some of them are forgivable loans. Some of them are direct contributions.

The parameters of eligibility change a little bit with the type of program it is, whether it's strictly a contribution or whether it be through forgivable loans, and the timelines associated with that. There are some differences. In general, the residency and income requirements are fairly standard through most of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have very many more questions, but I do want to ask about the Interim Financing Program. Today, it seems most people are buying houses that have already been built or somebody is already living in them and they buy them. This one is to provide "construction loans to Nunavummiut who are unable to secure interim financing from a private lender to construct a new home." How many applicants would you have to that one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I have that specific level of detail, if the Chairman will indulge me for a moment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In general, that program is there to assist somebody building a new home where there are levels of payment that some banks don't get up to until it's a substantial amount

of completion where they will do a mortgage on. In answer to your question, there is one applicant. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One applicant from this fiscal year. How popular is this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have the numbers for 2014-15 and 2015-16. I see one applicant last year and one new application right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. It says that it's a construction loan. What would be the interest rate on that loan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail here. I can get back to the member if she is truly interested in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think the other members may be indulged. One applicant. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I would appreciate that because I am truly interested in finding out.

While you're at it, maybe you can also tell me the number of applicants under the program of the Seniors and Persons

with Disabilities Home Options Program. That is where you assist seniors and people with disabilities “who can no longer afford homeownership by allowing them to access public housing upon the sale or transfer of their home.” There are a number of applicants for that.

What does that mean? Does that mean I can sell my home if I’m an elder? It’s too expensive, so I’m going to sell it, I sell it for a bunch of money, and then I enter public housing. How does that all work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that’s a slightly different program that the member was talking about, but there are cases where seniors can... . There are two different options. They can transfer the property to a relative, to one of their children or family member, or they can sell it to the Nunavut Housing Corporation and then enter into a public housing arrangement. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it’s sold to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, do they buy it at market value? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Definitely, the condition of the unit and the market rate are taken into consideration on that. I’m not sure if there are any other parameters. It doesn’t happen that often,

but again, I can get back to the member with a little bit more detail on that and provide it to the committee members. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I would like to report progress.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister’s officials out.

Speaker: Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13 and would like to report progress and that one Committee Motion being adopted. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Joanasie. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23.
(interpretation) *Orders of the Day*.
(interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Caucus at ten o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 8:

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 10
- Bill 11
- Bill 12
- Bill 13
- Tabled Document 73 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 116 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 140 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 149 – 4(2)
- Tabled Document 70 – 4(3)

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 Tuesday, March 8, at 1:30 p.m.

However, under the authority provided to me by Motion 16 – 4(3), the start time for tomorrow's sitting is subject to change, depending on the weather conditions. Members will be advised of any changes through the Office of the Clerk.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:27*

